THURSDAY
January 15, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

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RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 57 • No. 13

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

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Programme
Lady Andal School Premises, Chennai

Day 01
Saturday, January 17, 2026

Scan to register for the event.
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SIR MUTHA CONCERT HALL
LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

9.30 am to 9.45 am	**Inauguration**
9.50 am to 10.40 am	**Why The Constitution Matters** Former Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud in conversation with N. Ravi
10.45 am to 11.35 am	**The Undying Light: A Personal History of Independent India** Gopalkrishna Gandhi in conversation with David Davidar
11.35 am to 11.45 am	**BREAK**
11.45 am to 12.35 pm	**The Meaning of (Almost) All Things** A.C. Grayling in conversation with Chandan Gowda
12.40 pm to 1.30 pm	**Skewed Perception: Fighting Bias in Journalism** Pankaj Mishra and Samanth Subramanian in conversation with N. Ram
1.30 pm to 2.00 pm	**BREAK**
2.00 pm to 3.00 pm	**Unquiet Minds: A Generation in Crisis Conversations on building a better world for our children** Amit Bhatt, Avira Bhatt, and Shelja Sen in conversation with Niharika Kaul Bhattacharya
3.05 pm to 3.55 pm	**India's Path to Development** Arvind Subramanian and Devesh Kapur in conversation with Narendar Pani
3.55 pm to 4.05 pm	**BREAK**
4.05 pm to 4.55 pm	**Days and Nights at the Morisaki Bookshop** Satoshi Yagisawa in conversation with Rachna Singh Davidar
5.00 pm to 6.00 pm	**The Tamils by Nirmala Lakshman: A Theatrical Reading** Artists: Anita Ratnam, Brahadeeshwar C. Chandilya, Nandhini Subbulakshmi, Revathy Kumar, Sarvesh Sridhar, and Tehzeeb Katari Edited and Directed by Prasanna Ramaswamy
6.05 pm to 6.55 pm	**We, The People of India: Decoding a Nation's Symbols** T.M. Krishna in conversation with Suhrith Parthasarathy

THE HINDU PAVILION
LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

9.45 am to 10.35 am	**How to Reclaim India aka Bharat** Ashutosh and Sobhana K. Nair in conversation with Ziya us Salam
10.40 am to 11.30 am	**The Joys and Challenges of Translating Imayam** Imayam and Prabha Sridevan in conversation with Kavitha Muralidharan (Tamil)
11.35 am to 12.20 pm	**In the Heart of The Country** Ghazala Wahab in conversation with Varghese K. George
12.25 pm to 1.25 pm	**Diasporic Narratives of Relocation and Belonging** Amrita Shah, Saras Manickam, and Viji Krishnamoorthy in conversation with Radha Hegde
1.25 pm to 2.00 pm	**BREAK**
2.00 pm to 2.45 pm	**Women, Know Your Rights** Manasi Chaudhuri in conversation with Vidya Singh
2.50 pm to 3.35 pm	**Supercop!** Madhukar Zende in conversation with K.C. Vijaya Kumar
3.40 pm to 4.40 pm	**Translation: The Bridge Over Lives and Landscapes** Chandan Gowda, Gowri Ramnarayan, and Vanamala Viswanatha in conversation with Mini Krishnan
4.45 pm to 5.30 pm	**A Guardian and A Thief** Megha Majumdar in conversation with Ranvir Shah
5.35 pm to 6.25 pm	**Enter the Arena** Appupen and Perumal Murugan in conversation with Ramya Kannan (Bilingual)
6.30 pm to 7.15 pm	**A Thousand Loves: Ways of Being Polyamorous** Arundhati Ghosh in conversation with Priya Ramani

PROGRAMME SUBJECT TO CHANGE

THE HINDU SHOWPLACE
LADY ANDAL SCHOOL, CHENNAI

10.00 am to 10.50 am	**In Bad Faith: Violence Against Women** Neige Sinno in conversation with Priya Ramani
11.00 am to 11.45 am	**Nowhere People** Manoranjan Byapari in conversation with Minakshi Thakur
12.00 noon to 12.50 pm	**Life's Fleeting Moments: Poems and Songs** Ravi Shankar Etteth
12.50 pm to 2.00 pm	**BREAK**
2.00 pm to 2.50 pm	**Love, Loss and Healing** Andaleeb Wajid in conversation with Soma Basu
3.00 pm to 3.50 pm	**A Woman of No Consequence: Memory, Letters and Resistance in Madras** Kalpana Karunakaran in conversation with Sreemathi Ramnath
4.00 pm to 5.00 pm	**Footnotes from the Mahabharata** K. Srilata in conversation with Nikhila Kesavan. Indrani Krishnaier, Geetha Lakshman, Smrithi Parameswar, and Mrithula Chetlur from The Madras Players will present a dramatised reading of excerpts from the book.

WORKSHOPS

GROUND FLOOR, ANNEXE BUILDING

10.30 am to 12.30 pm	**Beyond the Body: The philosophy of fitness and wholesome living** Priti Chawla

LADY ANDAL SEMINAR HALL

10.30 am to 11.30 am & 3.00 pm to 4.00 pm	**Owning Your Digital Self in the AI Era** Shantanu Tungare
12.30 pm to 1.30 pm	**The Many Lives of the Lotus: Between Sacred History and Contemporary Claims** Sharan Apparao

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JOINT SESSION

Karnataka to discuss repeal of MGNREGA

KARNATAKA » PAGE 10

LEADERS MEET

U.S. needs Greenland for 'vital security', says Trump

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CASTE DISCRIMINATION

UGC to set up campus equity committees

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WAIT GOES ON

The continued custody in Delhi riots cases

Supreme Court's denial of bail raises questions

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DRAWING LEVEL

Mitchell steers New Zealand to facile win

SPORT » PAGE 19

NEARBY

Paper leak: PU board warns of action

BENGALURU
The Department of School Education (Pre-University), in response to the question paper leak incidents during the recently concluded II PUC Preparatory Exam-1, has warned that if the question papers for the the Preparatory Exam-2 are leaked from the nodal centre, an FIR will be registered against the principal of the nodal centre and legal action will be taken in addition to disciplinary action under the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Act 1957. » PAGE 9

THE HINDU
wishes its readers a
Happy Pongal
There will be no issue of
THE HINDU
dated January 16, 2026 as
Pongal is a holiday.
Readers can access the online edition at
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Iran signals at executions, trials amid Trump's threat

'If we have something to do, we have to do it quickly', says judiciary chief of the Islamic Republic; at least 2,571 already killed in crackdown on anti-government protests, says U.S.-based rights group

Associated Press
DUBAI

A woman reacts during funeral of security personnel, killed in protests, in Tehran on Wednesday. REUTERS

The head of Iran's judiciary defied a warning from U.S. President Donald Trump and signalled on Wednesday that there would be swift trials and executions ahead for those detained in nationwide protests.

The comments from Iran's judiciary chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei come as activists had warned hangings of those detained could come soon. A bloody security force crackdown on one of the biggest anti-government protests Iran has seen in years has already killed at least 2,571 people, the U.S.-based Human Rights Activists News Agency reported.

"If we want to do a job, we should do it now. If we want to do something, we have to do it quickly," Mr. Mohseni-Ejei said in a video shared by Iranian state television. "If it becomes late, two months, three months later, it doesn't have the same effect."

His comments stand as a direct challenge to Mr. Trump, who warned Iran about executions in an interview with CBS aired on Tuesday. "We will take very strong action," Mr. Trump said. "If they do such a thing, we will take very strong action." "We don't want to see what's happening in Iran happen. And you know, if they want to have protests, that's one thing, when they start killing thousands of people, and now you're telling me about hanging – we'll see how that works out for them. It's not going to work out good," he said.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly warned that the U.S. may take military action over the killing of peaceful protesters, just months after it bombed Iranian nuclear sites during a 12-day war launched by Israel in June 2025.

The Islamic Republic on Wednesday held a mass funeral of some 100 security force members killed in the demonstrations after authorities earlier said it would be 300. Tens of thousands of mourners attended, holding Iranian flags and photos of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

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EDITORIAL
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Jaishankar, Iran Minister discuss regional tensions

NEW DELHI
External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday spoke to Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi and discussed the current unrest in Iran as well as the growing tensions in West Asia. The conversation took place hours after the Ministry of External Affairs "strongly advised" Indian citizens to avoid travelling to Iran and the Embassy of India in Tehran urged Indian nationals to leave the country. » PAGE 14

Kuki-Zo Council reiterates demand for Union Territory

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Kuki-Zo Council (KZC) has reiterated the demand for a Union Territory for Kuki-Zo tribes in Manipur, saying that elements of the State government were "complicit in, or failed to prevent", atrocities against them.

The council apprised Union Home Minister Amit Shah of the "grave, prolonged, and unresolved concerns confronting our people in Manipur today", in a memorandum submitted through the Deputy Commissioner of Churachandpur district after a "mass rally" on Wednesday.

The ethnic conflict that broke out in Manipur on May 3, 2023, left more than 250 Kuki-Zo people dead, 7,000 houses destroyed, 360 places of worship desecrated or vandalised, and more than 40,000 people displaced, mostly driven out of Imphal Valley, the KZC said.

'Difficult co-existence'

"It is widely perceived and documented that elements of the State government machinery were complicit in, or failed to prevent, these atrocities. Under such circumstances, there exists no scope whatsoever for the Kuki-Zo people to continue under the same administration," the KZC said.

Insisting that it would be difficult for the Kuki-Zos to coexist with the non-tribal Meiteis, the KZC also warned against resettling the internally displaced persons (IDPs) belonging to the Meitei community in the "buffer zone" or close to Kuki-Zo areas.

Buffer zone refers to a narrow strip of land separating the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley and the surrounding hills inhabited by the Kuki-Zo people.

The KZC said these issues were existential in nature and demanded urgent constitutional and political intervention by the Centre.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Insurgent groups warned against violating rules

NEW DELHI
After a two-day review of the operations of Meitei and Kuki-Zo insurgent groups, officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Manipur administration have warned the outfits that they will face action if they violate ground rules, a senior government official told *The Hindu*. » PAGE 14

'No demand for sharing source code of phones'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

MAIT, an industry group representing smartphone manufacturers, has said that there was no demand by the Centre for devices' source code to be disclosed, and pointed out that even a 2023 security standard document – which was never enforced – that contained this requirement was amended in the middle of last year to remove the language.

The denial adds to the Centre's refutation of a news agency's reporting. The supposed demand, which was reported by the newswire agency *Reuters* over the weekend, cited a 2023 document by the National Centre for Communication Security, under the Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

The IT Ministry denied the claim, and a senior official said that this was a mischaracterisation of the nature of its conversations with phone makers. In the past few months, security oversight for phones has been transferred from the DoT to MeitY, and the latter was working to understand which standards are practical to implement, the official said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

12 arrested in mule account scam; assets worth ₹1 crore seized

Imran Gowhar
BENGALURU

In a major crackdown on cyber-enabled financial fraud, the Hulimavu Police have arrested 12 persons for allegedly cheating members of the public by illegally opening bank accounts – commonly known as mule accounts – and using them for illicit financial activities linked to online gambling operations.

The police have seized 242 debit cards, 58 mobile phones, seven laptops, nine watches, 531 gm of gold ornaments, ₹4.89 lakh in cash, 33 cheque books, 21 passbooks, 48 SIM cards, one online digital payment ring and a cryptocurrency-related book. The total value of the seized property is estimated at ₹1 crore.

Dubai-based handler

According to the police, on November 28, 2025, officers of Hulimavu Police Station received credible information that two individuals were opening bank accounts in the names of unsuspecting members of the public and handing them over to a Dubai-based handler for illegal monetary gain and to facilitate illegal gambling applications. Based on the tip-off, a case was registered and investigation was taken up.

On November 29, 2025, the police apprehended two suspects near an apartment in Anjanapura, J.P. Nagar 9th Phase. During interrogation, both allegedly confessed to their involvement. They were produced before a court on November 30 and remanded in police custody for 10 days.

During custodial interrogation, the accused allegedly revealed that they had lured people in financial distress by offering commissions, opened bank accounts in their names and misused them for fraudulent transactions. They also disclosed the involvement of 10 more accomplices.

At hospital

Police said the accused would approach gullible people near Victoria Hospital and other crowded public places, offering them small sums of money in exchange for their identity documents to open bank accounts. These accounts were subsequently used as mule accounts to route and launder proceeds of fraud.

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Indian hockey has thrived again and risen

The ace German player reflects his bond with the country where he has had career-defining moments; he is enjoying sharing space with young players at HIL and is keen to see the game boom in Asian countries

GETTY IMAGES

INTERVIEW

Christopher Ruhr

Y.B. Sarangi

With his wealth of experience, the 32-year-old Christopher Ruhr, who has been serving Germany since 2012 and has won two Olympic medals and a World Cup title, is an asset for any side.

The seasoned German player, who was in the Ranchi Rays side in the previous version of the Hockey India League (HIL), pulled out of the league in its relaunch season before returning to the HIL this year to don defending champion Shrachi Rarh Bengal Tigers' colours. Having seen the journey of the league as well as that of the Indian team's revival in recent years, Ruhr is perfectly placed to give a correct picture about hockey health of the country that is so dear to him.

In a chat with *The Hindu*, Ruhr spoke about his own career as well as the progress of Indian hockey. Excerpts:

You played in the HIL in 2017. Now you've come back to the league after skipping it last season. How has the league changed in its new version?

The league has changed. Every match is important because you only play once against all the other teams and then you're in the final four or you're going home. So every match has more importance to itself, which makes them more interesting and brings them to a higher level. That's definitely a big change.

How have you gelled with the new age Indian players, who form the bulk of the Bengal Tigers team? Does (German) Valentin Altenburg's presence as the coach help?

The spirit in the group is really good and I'm very happy to have such amazing Indian hockey players around me and Indian personalities. I look up to them and to their style of play and how they approach the game. I'm very enthusiastic about playing with Indian players, not only the internationals like Sukhjeet (Singh), Abhishek (Nain), Jugraj (Singh), who have been amazing on the international stage, but also the guys who don't play for India's men's team are amazing players and it's such an honour to play with them on one pitch and in one team and it's lots of fun. Valentin's presence helps a lot because he knows really well how to form a team and how to push the right buttons so everyone can feel themselves, but also play their best hockey. So that's definitely a big help.

You won the Junior World Cup in Delhi in 2013 and then won the senior World Cup in Bhubaneswar in 2023. Does India hold a special place for you?

India is such a special place in my heart because all these great memories have been taking place here and it's always an honour to come back because you play in front of big crowds. You have big fans who support you no matter if you're Indian or international and that's really special to me to have the support of so many Indian people and winning tournaments itself is already really big, but doing that in India is also very special. So, I come back every time with joy and it's definitely a very special place in my heart.

You were rated highly from younger days and you rose to the expectations. With more experience, how have you changed as a player over the years?

Thank you so much. I have changed a lot over the past few years. Also my playing style has changed in a more experienced, more composed kind of playing style - trying to dominate the game in a different way. Not only by running with the ball and beating my opponent and winning duels, but also making open passes and bringing my teammates into good positions. And that to me is as much fun as beating my opponent one-on-one, making a nice pass, a nice aerial (pass) into space where my teammate has an advantage or assisting them to score.

I'm also still trying to be quick and my strength of skills on a high speed and tempo to bring that. I think for the team I play in, it's more beneficial how I play now to find a good rhythm between going on my own and bringing my teammates into good positions. These days I just love making my teammates better and winning matches with my teammates, playing awesome hockey and with me having a big influence on them.

Tell us about your ambition in this year's World Cup and LA28.

There's a big restructuring process going on in the German team. So we lost many very experienced, successful players from the past 10 years. We have to build a new team. It's tough to say what our goal is at the World Cup. I think Germany always goes into tournaments to win them.

I guess that will also be the case for this year's World Cup. The Pro League matches help us to develop, help the young guys to make mistakes, because only if they make mistakes can they become better players on the big international stage. I'm really looking forward to seeing the young guys develop and help them to become the best players on the international stage. Going to the World Cup and LA28, it's definitely a big change in the German team. I'm looking forward to being part of it and helping the team be successful.

How do you analyse the changes in the Indian hockey team in the last 10-15 years? Where do you see it in the World Cup and next Olympics?

As you can see in the results, Indian hockey has thrived again and risen to being one of the top nations in the world. Every tournament we play, India is up for a medal. So it's a really interesting opponent and I always love playing against India. The past 10 or 15 years have been really good for Indian hockey and it's a joy to see it because I love the Indian style of play and also love the players I have played with in the past and in the present, like Manpreet Singh, Sukhjeet, Abhishek. These guys, I (would) just love seeing them play for the next World Cup and the next Olympics. India will play for medals and it will be interesting in close matches to see how they do.

When I look back to the Paris Olympics, especially the quarterfinal against Great Britain, one of the best matches I've ever seen India play. They were a man down for 43 minutes and were still the better team than Great Britain and managed to come out as a winner. It's just unbelievable and shows the mental strength of the new Indian generation as well.

Do you think hockey needs to reinvent its standard and popularity in other Asian countries such as Pakistan, Korea and Malaysia to make itself more competitive and relevant in the Olympics?

For me, it is really difficult to answer because we don't always play Asian countries, but I think it takes years and years when you've been good and you've become a little down, then to get good again. India did it unbelievably well. India had a phase in the past 20 years where it didn't go like it should. But they've risen again and are amongst the top countries in the world.

I wish the Asian teams become better again because it's always so special to play against them. Not only India, but also Pakistan, Korea, Malaysia. It's such a unique style of play and it's always great fun to play against these countries. I hope they will become better and better again. So the world's biggest stages also get closer and closer at the top.

> The past 10 or 15 years have been really good for Indian hockey and it's a joy to see it because I love the Indian style of play and also love the players I have played with in the past and in the present

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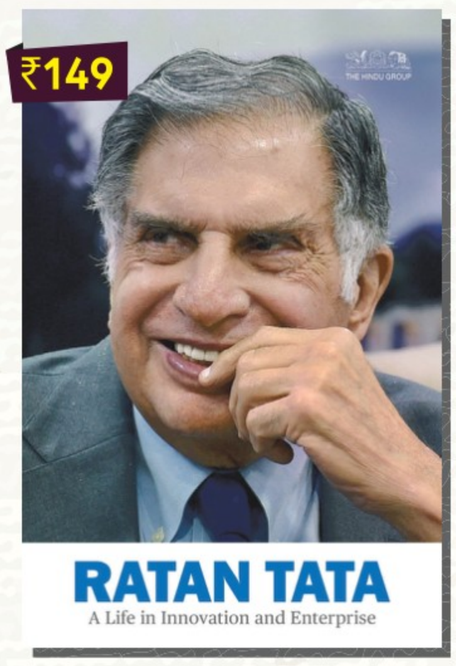

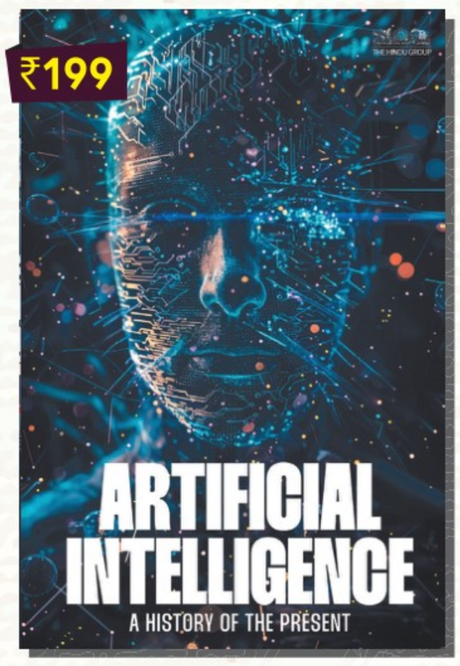

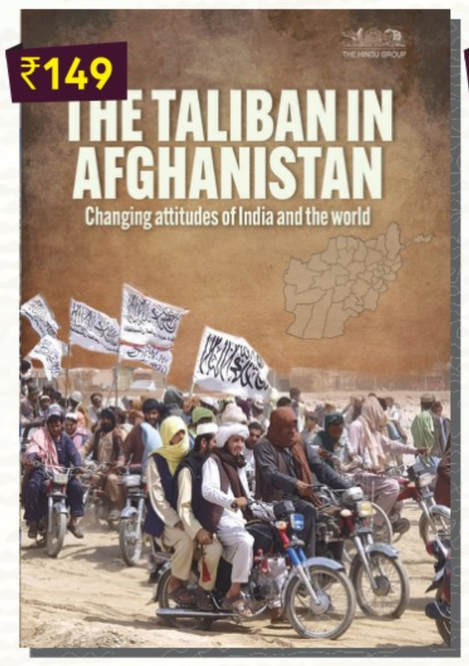

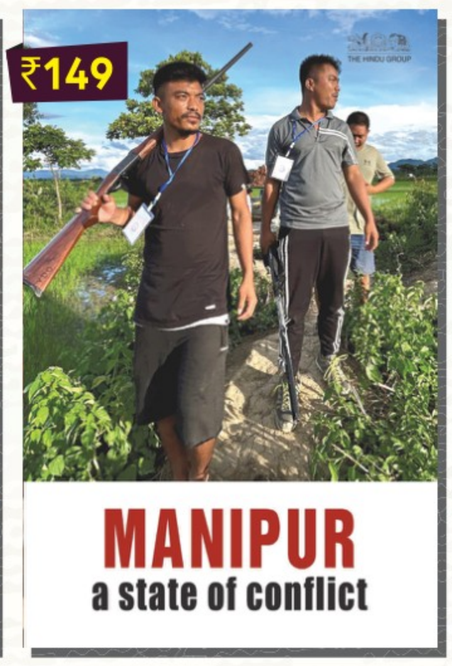

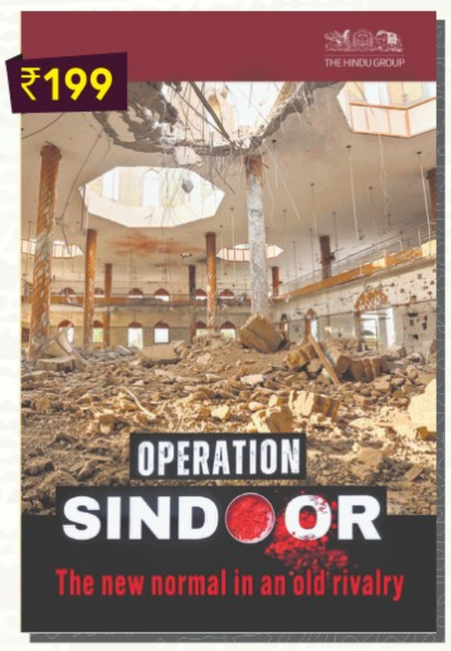

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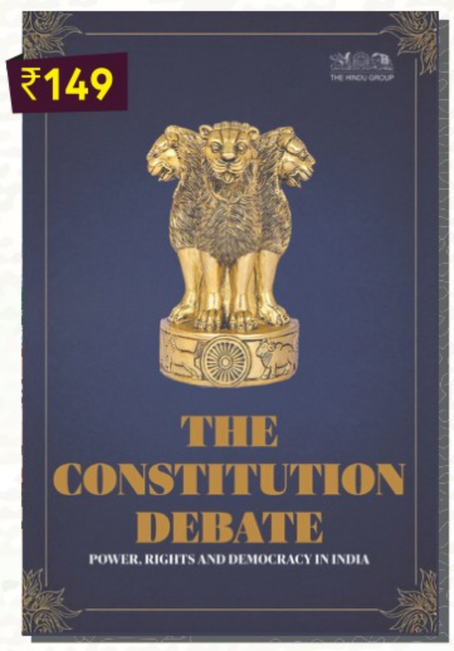

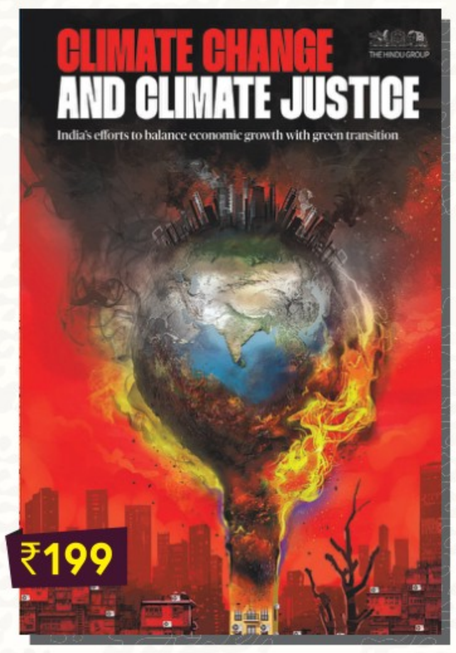

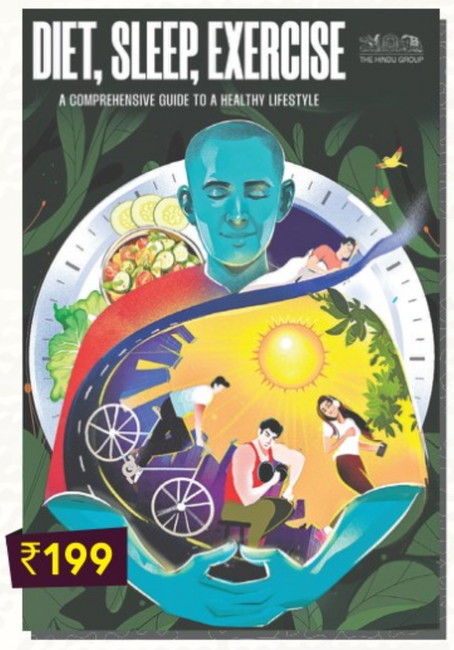

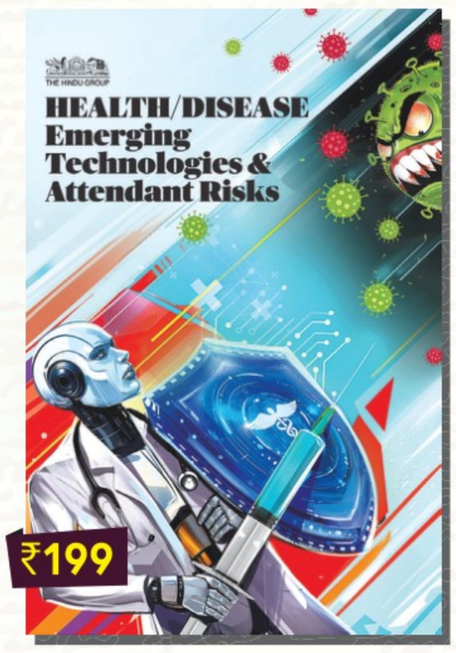

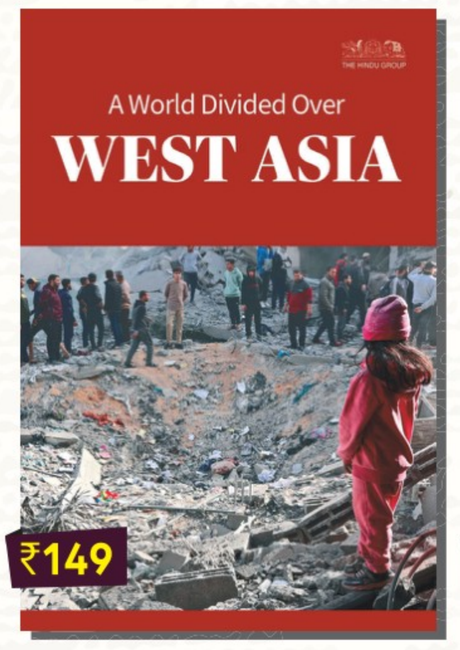

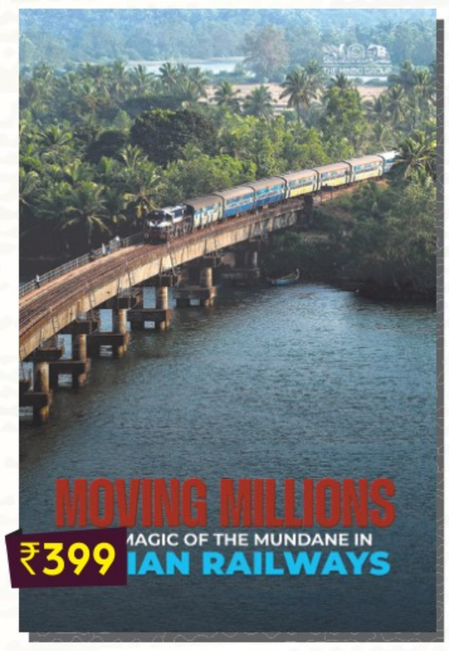

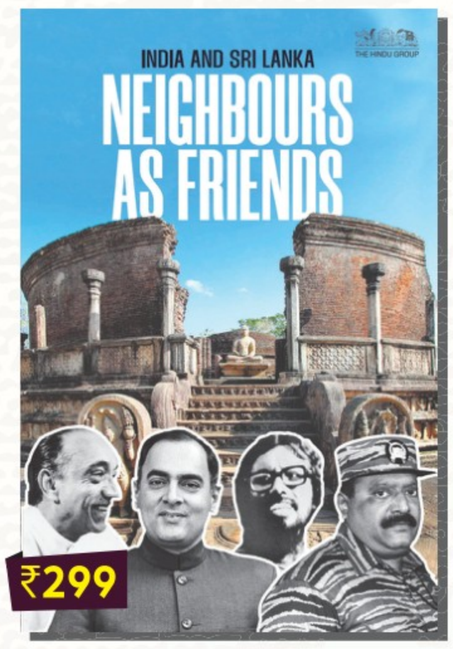

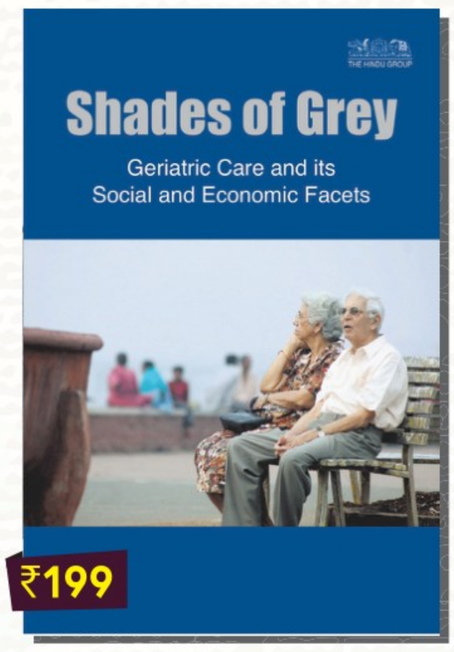

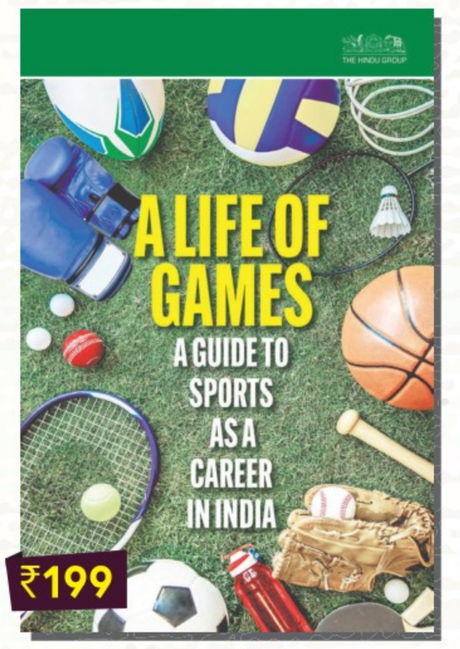

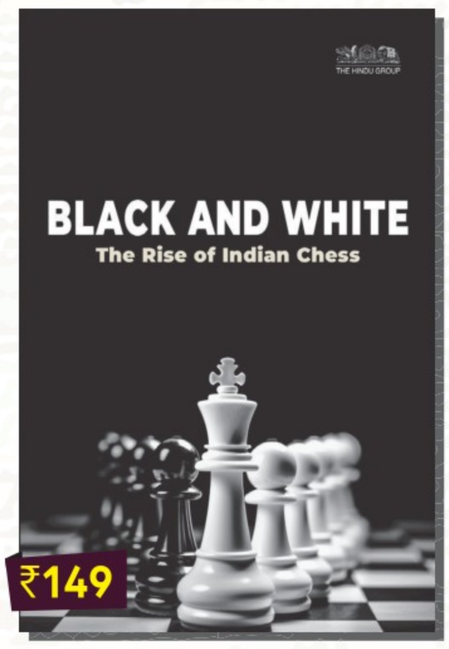

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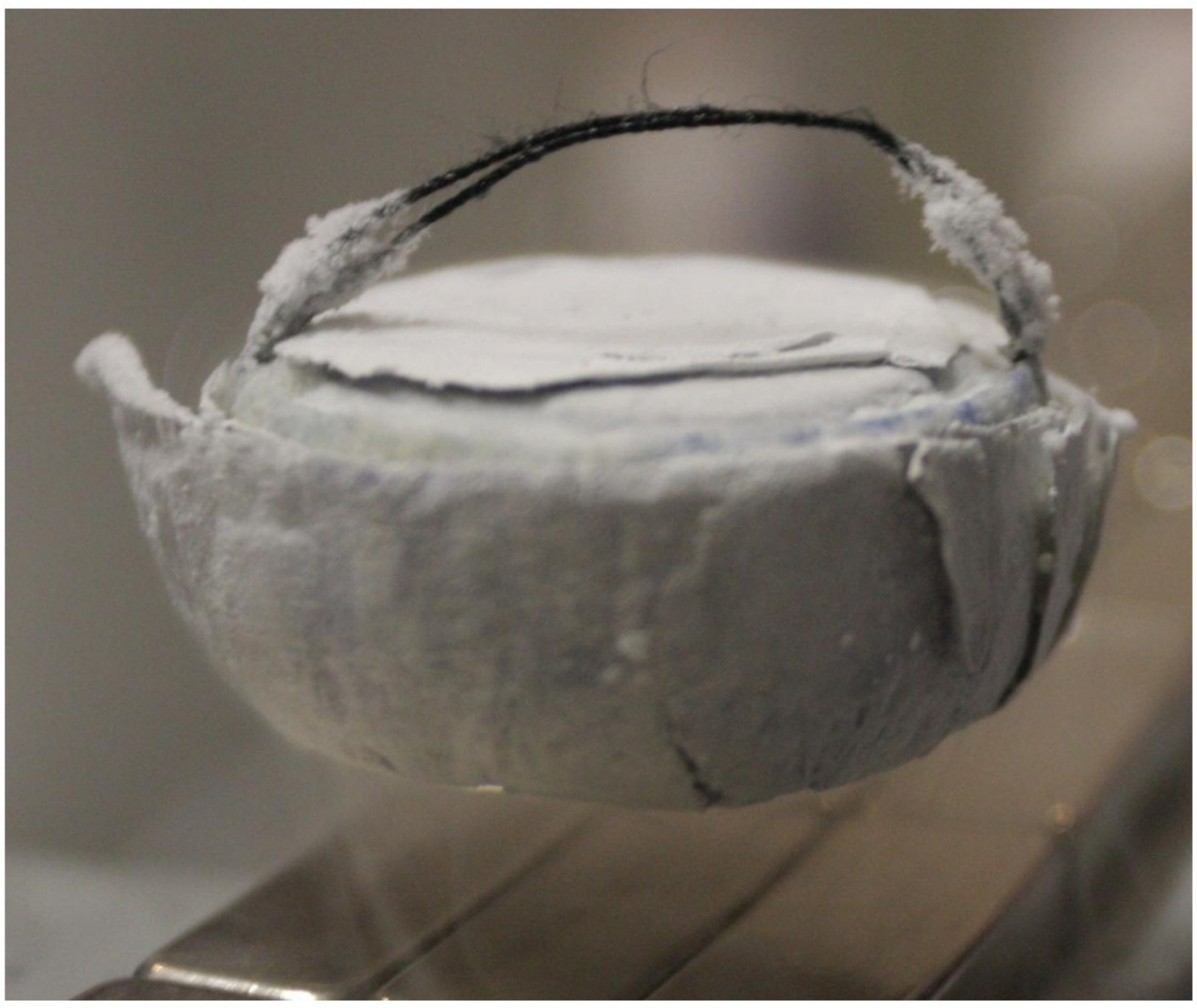
Scientists urged to rethink 'smoking gun' signals in topological physics

When scientists study materials at small scales, things can get messy in ways they may not anticipate; these materials can produce signals that look like the exotic phenomena scientists are searching for but are actually caused by ordinary effects; a new review calls this the 'smoking gun' problem

Vasudevan Mukunth
CHENNAI



A superconductor levitates above a magnet. In 2023, a South Korean team claimed to have found a material called copper-doped lead apatite, later dubbed LK-99, that it said was a superconductor in ambient conditions — an entity famously called the holy grail of materials science. HENRY MÜHLPFORDT (CC BY-SA)

Imagine you're a detective looking for proof of something extraordinary. You find what looks like the perfect clue, a smoking gun that seems to prove your theory. But what if that clue could be explained by something more ordinary?

Many physicists around the world are trying to create and identify special materials with unusual electronic properties called topological materials. They could potentially revolutionise quantum computing, but finding them also requires a willingness to question initial results that seem too good to be true, even when millions of dollars or great academic prestige are at stake.

There have already been many high-profile cases in this area where physicists have announced sensational findings only to withdraw them later after independent scientists spotted mistakes or even fraud in their work. Recently, physicist Ranga Dias was found to have fabricated data to claim a room-temperature superconductor. Many parts of his work have since been discredited.

These and other such incidents have fanned a broader conversation in the community about reproducibility, the idea that scientists should be able to repeat others' experiments in the same conditions and get the same results.

Messy materials

When scientists study materials at very small scales, things can get messy in ways they may not anticipate. These materials can produce signals that look like the exotic phenomena scientists are searching for, the smoking gun, but are actually caused by more ordinary effects.

The authors of a new review in *Science* have called this the 'smoking gun' problem. Scientists predict what a dramatic discovery should look like, then go searching for that pattern. But at the atomic scale, there are so many things happening that they can accidentally find patterns that match their expectations even when the exotic physics they're looking for isn't actually there.

To understand how, the team performed four experiments with deceptively exciting signals. And based on them they've called for researchers to be honest about how they make certain discoveries and to openly discuss alternative explanations.

At the 'nanoscopic' scales at which topological effects play out, materials are complicated and different effects can create apparently similar patterns

Indian Institute of Science professor of condensed matter physics Vijay Shenoy was direct, however. "What the authors state as best practices are, in my opinion, just common sense," he told *The Hindu*. "Most folks working in the area know these points."

He also said "the race to be the first [to claim an exciting finding] is the cause of the tumult – and all this is fuelled by the editors of the fancy journals." Indeed, in addition to the other stakes to which researchers are sometimes exposed, many of the more 'prestigious' journals also have a history of expecting sensational results in the studies they publish.

Strengthening supercurrent

A superconductor is a material that conducts electricity with zero resistance.

Normally, when you apply a magnetic field to a superconductor, it weakens the superconductivity. But in the team's experiment, the opposite happened: the supercurrent got stronger as the researchers increased the strength of the magnetic field. This seemed like evidence of an exotic type of superconductivity that physicists call triplet pairing, which is connected to topological materials.

In the first experiment, the team studied small connections made of special materials.

When they looked at different voltage settings, the researchers found this behaviour only happened in a specific, narrow regime. Most of the time, the magnetic field reduced the supercurrent, as expected. The strange increase turned out to be caused by mundane features in the connections between the superconductor and the detector, not exotic physics.

The LK-99 story from 2023 provides a real-world example. A South Korean team claimed to have found a material called copper-doped lead apatite, later dubbed LK-99, that was a superconductor in ambient conditions – an entity famously called the holy grail of materials science.

But when independent researchers synthesised the material and broadened the checks, they couldn't find definitive evidence of zero electrical resistance in ambient conditions. Subsequently, multiple researchers argued that what looked like evidence of superconductivity in LK-99 could arise from impurities introduced when it was synthesised in the lab.

Undulating plateau

Second, the team looked for Majorana particles, quantum particles that are their own antiparticles (if that sounds weird, it is). These particles would show up as peaks on a graph in their measurements. But they found something even better: a plateau, where the signal stayed constant over a range of conditions. This was exciting because fleeting peaks could be caused by ordinary effects whereas a stable plateau suggested a persistent underlying phenomenon.

When they checked other settings in the same device or measured at different times, they found plateaus at different heights: some higher than expected, some lower. This showed they could 'tune' their device to produce whatever plateau height they wanted.

This is because the plateaus were actually caused by unintended quantum dots, small regions where electrons get trapped, in their device – not Majorana particles.

There's a real-world example here as well. In 2017, a research team from the University of California, Los Angeles, reported an exciting result while studying a material that could carry electricity only along its edges in an unusual way. They connected this material to a superconductor and measured how easily electric current flowed through the device, and saw a flat plateau where the signal stayed almost constant over a range of settings. Many people thought it might be a sign of an exotic kind of quantum behaviour linked to Majorana particles.

> What the authors state as best practices are, in my opinion, just common sense. Most folks working in the area know these points... the race to be the first [to claim an exciting finding] is the cause of the tumult – and all this is fuelled by the editors of the fancy journals
>
> **VIJAY SHENOY**
> Professor of condensed matter physics, Indian Institute of Science

But later work revealed that in devices of this kind, a plateau can sometimes emerge from the way the metal contacts touch the material, among other factors. And these effects could 'trap' the readings into a flat value for a while even if no Majorana particles are involved.

Staircase illusion

When studying how certain electric circuits behave when struck by radio waves, scientists expect to see a staircase pattern called Shapiro steps: the current increases in steps when the voltage is changed, not continuously For the exotic fractional Josephson effect associated with Majorana particles, every other step should disappear, i.e. you'd only see steps 2, 4, 6, but not 1, 3, 5. And that's exactly what they observed.

But at different settings and frequencies, the pattern changed. Sometimes even-numbered steps disappeared. Sometimes extra steps appeared. The team realised that the device wasn't in the right conditions for topological effects anyway. Among others, it needed a strong magnetic field, which wasn't applied.

The missing steps were probably caused by other effects in the circuit, like heating or electrical noise, not exotic physics. It's like looking at a staircase in dim lighting where every other step is in shadow: it might look like those steps are missing, but they're hidden by ordinary circumstances.

Fractional charges

The researchers studied a quantum dot, a small artificial atom (its inventors won the 2023 Nobel Prize for chemistry). As they varied the voltage, they expected to see a regular pattern as electrons were added one by one. Instead, they saw the pattern shift by fractions, especially by about 1/3. This could mean particles with fractional charges, like 1/3rd of an electron's charge, were being added to the dot. Fractional charges could be evidence of anyons.

Fractional charges should only appear in very specific conditions, specifically in something called the fractional quantum Hall effect, which requires strong magnetic fields. But the researchers observed their readings with no magnetic field.

The real explanation turned out to be simpler: there were (undesirable) regions nearby that could trap electrons. When an electron jumped into one of these nearby traps, it changed the electrical environment of the main quantum dot by just the right amount to make it look like a fractional charge had been added.

In all four cases, the initial data looked promising. But when the researchers measured over wider ranges of conditions, collected more data over more time, studied multiple samples instead of just one, and actively looked for alternative explanations, they found the exciting signals probably weren't evidence of the exotic physics they were hoping for.

Share all data

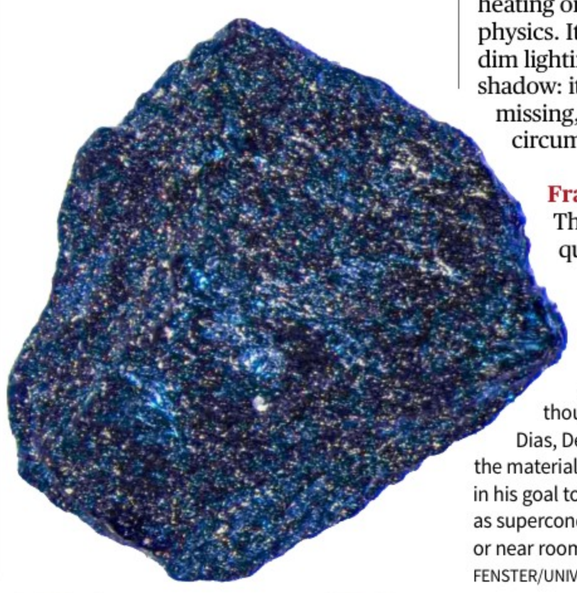
The new review isn't saying these discoveries are impossible or that the researchers were doing bad science but that at the 'nanoscopic' scales at which topological effects play out, materials are complicated and many different effects can create apparently similar patterns.

To navigate this landscape, the team recommended some changes to the way researchers research. The first was for them to share all their data rather than just the 'exciting' parts. For instance, if they collect data from 10 devices over six months, they're better off sharing all of it, not just the one device that looked most promising.

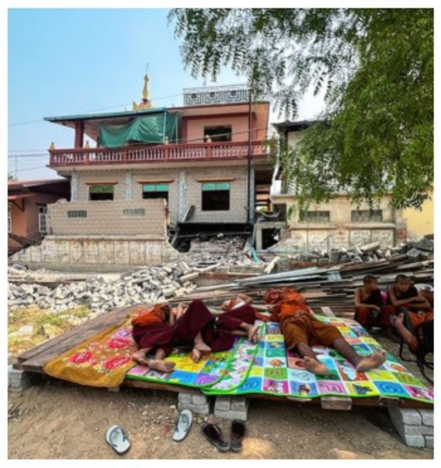
Second, the team recommended researchers should look for data to confirm their hypothesis as well as search for conditions in which the effect should disappear or change, and confirm that it actually does. Further, scientists should also openly discuss alternative explanations in their papers.

Finally, the team said researchers should be transparent about how much they had to fine-tune their setup until the effect they were looking for appeared. If they had to adjust five different settings to very precise values to see the effect, that could mean they've accidentally found a quirk of their specific device rather than a fundamental physical phenomenon.

(mukunth.v@thehindu.co.in)



An approximately 1-mm diameter sample of lutetium hydride is pictured though a microscope in the lab of Ranga Dias, December 15, 2022. Mr. Dias said he used the material in a high pressure diamond anvil cell in his goal to create novel quantum materials such as superconductors with a critical temperature at or near room temperature. J. ADAM FENSTER/UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER



Shaky ground: Monks rest next to a damaged building following a strong earthquake in Sagaing, Myanmar on April 2, 2025. REUTERS

'Losses due to disasters drop in 2025, picture still alarming'

Agence France-Presse

Natural disaster losses worldwide dropped sharply to $224 billion in 2025, reinsurer Munich Re said on Tuesday, but warned of a still "alarming" picture of extreme weather events likely driven by climate change.

The figure was down nearly 40% from a year earlier, in part because no hurricane struck the U.S. mainland for the first time in several years.

Nevertheless, "the big picture was alarming with regard to floods, severe... storms and wildfires in 2025", said Munich Re, a Germany-based provider of insurance for the insurance industry.

The costliest disaster of 2025 came in the form of Los Angeles wildfires in January, with total losses of $53 billion and insured losses of around $40 billion, Munich Re said in its annual disaster report. It was followed by the devastating earthquake that hit Myanmar in March, which is estimated to have caused $12 billion in losses, only a small share of which was insured.

It was striking how many extreme events were likely influenced by climate change in 2025 and it was just chance that the world was spared potentially higher losses, according to the group.

"The planet has a fever, and as a result we are seeing a cluster of severe and intense weather events," Tobias Grimm, Munich Re's chief climate scientist, said.

According to Munich Re's report, insured losses for 2025 came in at $108 billion, also sharply down on last year.

Around 17,200 lives were lost in natural disasters worldwide, significantly higher than about 11,000 in 2024, but below the 10-year average of of 17,800, it said.

Munich Re's, a Germany-based provider of insurance for the insurance industry, puts insured losses for 2025 at $108 billion

Mr. Grimm said 2025 was a year with "two faces". "The first half of the year was the costliest loss period the insurance industry has ever experienced," he said, but the second half saw the lowest losses in a decade.

It is now the cumulative costs of smaller-scale disasters – like local floods and forest fires – that are having the greatest impact. Losses from these events amounted to $166 billion last year, according to Munich Re.

Tropical cyclones caused around $37 billion in losses. Jamaica was battered by Hurricane Melissa, one of the strongest hurricanes ever to make landfall, generating losses of around $9.8 billion.

By region, total losses in the United States amounted to $118 billion, $88 billion of which was insured – around the same as an estimate of $115 billion total losses from U.S. nonprofit Climate Central. The Asia-Pacific region had losses of about $73 billion – but only $9 billion was insured, according to the report.

Australia had its second most expensive year in terms of overall losses from natural disasters since 1980 due to a series of severe storms and flooding.

The report comes at a time when scepticism towards green policies is growing, particularly since the return to power of U.S. President Donald Trump, who derides climate science as a "hoax".

"More heat means more humidity, stronger rainfall, and higher wind speeds – climate change is already contributing to extreme weather," Mr. Grimm said.

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Civic polls: Why Gen Z could influence the outcome?

Parties are scouting candidates and coming up with strategies to strike a chord with a new generation of voters.

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Generation Z, or Gen Z, has emerged as a fresh equation in the upcoming civic polls of Bengaluru, significantly shaping the election strategies and prompting the aspirants to search for novel ways to strike a chord with voters.

As former councillor Abdul Wajid from Congress puts it, "The city has undergone substantial transformation over the last 10 years, and this new demographic of voters has a different view of society and the city. Aspirants should be well informed about this, tweak their views, and adjust to their mindset."

Gen Z voters with whom *The Hindu* spoke to say they expect candidates to have knowledge of local civic issues and possess a strong voice and the courage to question unwanted developments. FILE PHOTO

Timeline

- The last BBMP polls were held in August 2015
- The councillors' term ended in September 2020
- Elections were delayed due to plans to expand BBMP limits
- Civic polls are likely to be held in June 2026
- The GBG Bill was passed and received the Governor's assent in April 2025
- The BBMP era ended, and five corporations were formed in Bengaluru in September 2025
- The Congress proposed the Greater Bengaluru Governance (GBG) Bill in 2024

'White and white'

He jokingly said that the "white and white" campaign will not work in these civic polls, as expectations now go far beyond fixing stormwater drains or providing water connections.

Former Mayor G. Padmavathi from the Congress said the demographic change would ensure true representation under women's reservation. "Often, when a woman contests from the reservation quota and is elected, it is likely that a man (her husband or brother) ends up governing, while the woman remains just a face. This will change," said Ms. Padmavathi, who has contested five civic polls and emerged victorious four times.

The logic behind Ms. Padmavathi's statement is that the new pool of voters has a keen eye to notice whether a woman is contesting and campaigning based on her own views and ability or if she is merely a face for someone else's strategy.

Prithvi Reddy, national joint secretary of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), predicted that this civic election is also likely to see a high voter turnout. He said the new voters are major victims of the infrastructure collapse over the years and the daily hardships resulting from it. "When people bear the pain directly, they address it. This new wave of voters, having witnessed these hardships, would want to fix the issues and will step out to vote this time around," he said.

Candidates with vision

Gen Z voters with whom *The Hindu* spoke to said they expect candidates to have a vision for the city along with knowledge of local civic issues and possess a strong voice and the courage to question unwanted developments.

Citizens hope that candidates will not be the children or relatives of the same old councillors

Poorvi S., 21, who will be voting for the first time in the civic polls, said she would look for a candidate who can speak about larger civic policies that will shape the city, engage with citizens, and demonstrate the ability to think through and discuss practical solutions to civic issues such as sanitation, road safety and daily citizen grievances.

Smitha Rao, 27, an active civic worker in north Bengaluru, said candidates should have the attitude to govern without barriers and speak on issues such as air pollution, environmental concerns, and last-mile connectivity, which have grown in importance over the past few years. Ms. Rao added that candidates should also be committed to resolving long-standing issues such as garbage management and water tanker dependence by regulating them and dismantling the mafias that control these sectors.

Mr. Reddy said Gen Z voters alone cannot fix the issues and need younger representatives who understand what the city requires. This, he said, is why the AAP has decided that 35% of its contestants will be under 35 years of age.

1,500 applications

Mr. Wajid said the party has already received 1,500 applications from aspirants. "The selection will involve multiple criteria, including the ability of candidates to understand the needs of voters across all age groups and cater to them," he said.

Staying grounded

However, citizens hope that candidates will not be the children or relatives of the same old councillors. At the same time, many former councillors have found ways to stay connected at the grassroots level. For instance, Ms. Padmavathi has started an NGO and continues to work closely with citizens, while BJP's N.R. Ramesh, a former councillor , has remained active in the public domain.

BJP ex-councillors sceptical, newer parties confident of good performance

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Supreme Court on Monday directed the Karnataka government to hold civic polls by June 30. While the Congress has begun groundwork, several former BJP councillors believe the elections are unlikely to take place anytime soon. New entrants such as the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), however, feel they have an edge in the polls.

While the Congress has begun groundwork, several former BJP councillors believe the elections are unlikely to take place anytime soon. FILE PHOTO

Padmanabha Reddy, former councillor from Kacharakanahalli, noted that there are several flaws in the formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), which violate Article 243R (relating to the composition of municipalities) and Article 243W (relating to the powers, authority, and responsibilities of municipalities).

"Even with the draft reservations, there are issues. This election won't happen anytime soon," he said.

Another BJP councillor, who did not wish to be named, pointed out that offshoots of the erstwhile Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), B-SMILE, and Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd. (BSWML), are functioning independently despite being civic-related agencies. "When councillors have issues with these companies, where should we go?" he asked, adding that these flaws could end up in court seeking the dissolution of the GBA.

Despite the confusion among his party members, the Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly, R. Ashok, said on Monday that the BJP would hand the Congress a crushing defeat.

Abdul Wajid of the Congress countered that the Greater Bengaluru Governance (GBG) Bill had been passed in both Houses and received the Governor's assent. Following this, the court directed that elections be conducted at the earliest. "How can there be a problem now?" he asked.

Meanwhile, parties such as the Bengaluru NavaNirmana Party (BNP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) are confident of performing well in the polls.

Prithvi Reddy from AAP said that with smaller wards, parties such as his , which rely on door-to-door campaigning and focus on practical solutions to civic issues, have an advantage, as people can connect better with them. "People are fed up with traditional parties and are looking for an alternative, which will work well for us," he said. He pointed to the spurt in civic works across the city just ahead of the elections, highlighting years of governance negligence.

Srikanth Narasimhan, founder of BNP, told *The Hindu* that the party is deeply connected to the grassroots through its work on civic issues. "We are known to people and are more connected across age groups and income classes. This factor will give us a better chance," he said.

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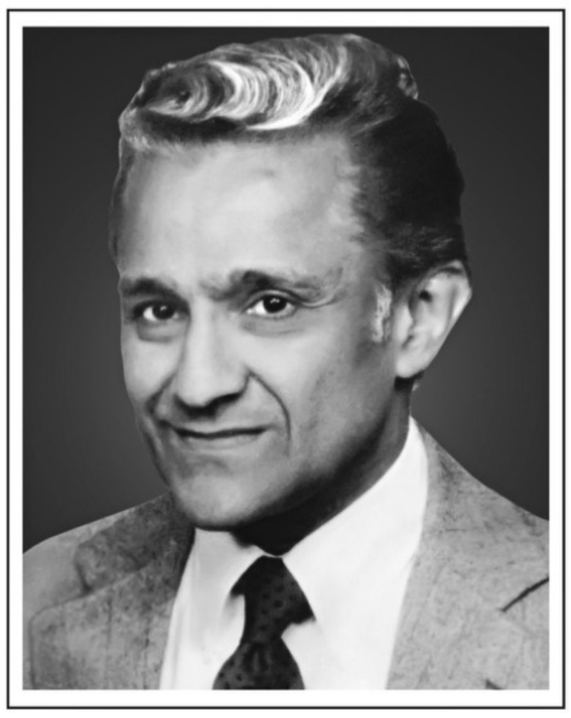

Arvind Vithal Gandhi
(8th Nov. 1930 – 15th Jan. 1986)
Chairman
USV Private Limited

A leader, whose values continue to illuminate our path.

He ensured Reliability and Uncompromising Quality in all USV Products.

He led with abundant energy and gentle compassion.

He remains a timeless inspiration in our lives.

USV

Your reliable healthcare partner

Government of Karnataka
Karnataka Examinations Authority

UG CET - 2026

Hon'ble Higher Education Minister and Chairman, KEA Dr. M.C. Sudhakar and Hon'ble Medical Education, Skill Development Minister and KEA Co-Chairman Dr. Sharan Prakash Patil released the CET Diksuchi 2026.

Dear students and parents

For admission to professional courses such as Engineering, Agriculture, Veterinary, Pharmacy, B.Sc. (Nursing), etc., candidates must submit an online application for CET-2026, which is conducted by KEA.

The CET-2026 application works as an "Application-cum-Verification" Module. Details related to a candidate's academic study and caste reservation will be automatically fetched through web services using the SATS and RD numbers.

Therefore, a "CET Diksuchi" information booklet, containing brief details about the application process, eligibility criteria, sample certificates, and other relevant information, will be provided to candidates in their respective colleges.

WHAT DOCUMENTS MAY BE REQUIRED TO APPLY?

MANDATORY DOCUMENTS FOR ALL CANDIDATES
- SSLC / 10TH CLASS MARK SHEET
- AADHAR CARD
- STUDENT'S PHOTOGRAPH (IN JPG FORMAT. < 50KB)
- STUDENT'S SIGNATURE (IN JPG FORMAT. < 50KB)
- STUDENT'S MOBILE NUMBER (WITH WHATSAPP) & EMAIL REGISTRATION

Special Note: The name in the SSLC mark card, Aadhar card and RD certificate should be the same. If there is any discrepancy, immediately correct the Aadhar card and RD certificate as per the SSLC mark card.

The following documents required, if applicable
(Certificates should be in the name of the candidate only)

Scheduled Caste candidates: Caste Certificate containing internal reservation details (Category-A / Category-B / Category-C) with RD number.	Kannada Medium study certificate from 1st to 10th standard
Caste certificate: For ST and Category-1 students with RD number.	Certificate for studying in rural areas of Karnataka from 1st to 10th standard
SC, ST, Category-1 candidates will have to obtain income certificate with RD number separately . 1. SC / ST candidates - Fee exemption if annual income upto Rs.10.00 Lakhs. 2. Category-1 candidates – Partial Fee exemption if annual income upto 2.5 Lakhs.	NCLC certificate with RD number (for General Category candidates seeking reservation for studies in rural areas) **For Medical and Dental courses** Linguistic Minority certificate: Studied in Karnataka for a period of Ten Years from 1st Standard to 2nd PUC/12th and passed SSLC/10th or 2nd PUC/12th from Karnataka state.(Tamil, Telugu, Kodava & Tulu mother tongue)
Caste / Caste Income Certificate (Income and Caste Certificate)– with RD Number (for 2A, 2B, 3A, 3B students)	Religious Minority Certificate (for Muslim, Christian Religious Minority Candidates)
371(J) Kalyana Karnataka Certificate with RD number	

H. Prasanna IAS
Executive Director, KEA.

@KEA_KARNATAKA | KEA Vikasana | keaugcet25@gmail.com | https://cetonline.karnataka.gov.in/kea/ | 080-23 460 460 (10 Lines - From 8.00 am to 8.00 pm)

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The goods purchased by China from Japan in December

16.4 In $ billion. China bought more from Japan in December than at any point in the last three years, customs data showed, even as Beijing's sharper rhetoric over comments out of Tokyo about Taiwan fuelled fears that Beijing could restrict trade ties. REUTERS

India's cotton imports in the month of December

3.1 In million bales. India's cotton imports rose to a record 3.1 million bales in the December quarter after New Delhi allowed duty-free imports, boosting overseas purchases. Higher imports by the world's second-largest cotton producer are expected to support global prices. REUTERS

Number of attacks on doctors and medical staff from 2021-25

149 As many as 149 incidents of violence and assault against doctors and medical staff were reported in government and private hospitals across New Delhi from 2021 to 2025, according to data tabled in the Delhi Assembly, highlighting a rise in the number of such attacks. PTI

The trade deficit between India and China in 2025

116.12 In billion. India's exports to China posted a $5.5 billion increase compared to last year bucking the declining trend even as the trade deficit hit a record $116.12 billion, as per the annual trade data released by Chinese customs. PTI

India's wholesale price inflation in December last year

0.83 In per cent. Wholesale price inflation increased for the second month in a row, rising 0.83% in December 2025, driven by an uptick in prices of food, and manufactured items on a month-on-month basis. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What is the Malayalam Language Bill, 2025?

What does the Bill entail? Has a similar Bill been tabled earlier in the Kerala legislature? Why has the Karnataka government opposed the Bill, describing it as 'unconstitutional'? Does the Bill make Malayalam the mandatory first language across all schools in Kerala?

EXPLAINER

Sarath Babu George
Sharath S. Srivatsa

The story so far:

On October 6, 2025, the Kerala government tabled the Malayalam Language Bill, 2025 in the Kerala Legislative Assembly. Three days later, the Bill was passed following scrutiny by the Subject Committee. The Bill now awaits the assent of the Governor. However, the Karnataka Government has expressed concerns over the provisions of the Bill as it could hurt the Kannada linguistic minority in Kerala.

What does the Bill entail?

The Malayalam Language Bill, 2025 seeks to formally adopt Malayalam as the official language of Kerala, and mandates its use across government, education, judiciary, public communication, commerce, and the digital domain, subject to constitutional provisions. Presently, the State recognises both English and Malayalam as official languages. Malayalam will become the compulsory first language in all government and aided schools in Kerala up to Class 10. Steps will also be adopted to translate all judgments and court proceedings in a phased manner. Besides, all Bills and Ordinances will be introduced in Malayalam.

The draft law also intends to rename the existing Personnel and Administrative Reforms (Official Language) department as the Malayalam Language Development department. The government will also constitute a Malayalam Language Development Directorate under the department. The Information Technology department will be entrusted with developing open source software and accessories for the efficient use of Malayalam language in the field of IT.

What prompted its introduction?

Over a decade ago, the Kerala government had introduced the Malayalam Language (Dissemination and Enrichment) Bill, 2015, which was also intended to adopt Malayalam as the official language and be used for all official purposes. Despite being passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly, the Bill was referred to the President who withheld assent.

Language dispute: A delegation from the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority delegation meets Kerala Governor Rajendra Arlekar in Kasargod on January 7. THE HINDU

The Bill was reserved for the President's consideration since it contained provisions that contravened the Official Languages Act, 1963. The Central government also raised objections regarding other provisions pertaining to the rights of linguistic minorities; the three language formula in accordance with the national educational curriculum; and provisions in the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009. The new Bill has been introduced after removing such defects.

Why has Karnataka opposed the Bill?

The Karnataka government has opposed the Bill, describing it as "unconstitutional" and contrary to the interests of the Kannada-speaking linguistic minority in Kerala, particularly those residing in the border district of Kasaragod. It has raised concerns over the provision that proposes making Malayalam the compulsory first language in all schools across Kerala.

A delegation from the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority submitted a memorandum to Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar on behalf of the Karnataka government, seeking his intervention to reject the Bill. The petitioners contended that linguistic minority students in Kasaragod and other Kannada-speaking regions of Kerala currently study Kannada as their first language in schools. The government fears that this set-up will be disrupted. The number of Kannada medium schools in Kasargod district has already come down from 197 to 192 in recent years. The Karnataka government has also expressed apprehension that implementing the Bill in Kasaragod could have far-reaching consequences and adversely impact the Kannada language in general.

What has Kerala government said?

Law Minister P. Rajeeve, while tabling the Bill, had emphasised that the Bill seeks to protect the rights of linguistic minorities, including citizens who consider Tamil, Kannada, Tulu and Konkani as their mother tongues. It contains special provisions for linguistic minorities, who will be permitted to use their mother tongues for correspondence with the State government Secretariat, Heads of Department and all local offices of the State government situated in those areas. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said that the Bill contains a clear and unambiguous non-obstante clause in Clause 7 that provides special provisions to other State linguistic minorities. He has said that Kerala's Language policy is fully aligned with the Official Languages Act, 1963, and Articles 346 and 347 (Articles which lay out details regarding the language to be used for official purposes).

What has been Karnataka's response?

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that Karnataka will oppose the Bill by exercising every constitutional right available if the Bill in the current form is not withdrawn. Kannada and Culture Minister Shivaraj Tangadagi has said that the Chief Minister was likely to meet with the President in this matter.

Meanwhile, the Karnataka Border Area Development Authority has said that it wants amendments to the provisions of the current Bill, the nature of which would explicitly exempt Kannada-speaking areas in Kasargod from the ambit of the Bill.

THE GIST

- The Malayalam Language Bill, 2025 seeks to formally adopt Malayalam as the official language of Kerala, and mandates its use across government, education, judiciary, public communication, commerce, and the digital domain, subject to constitutional provisions.
- Law Minister P. Rajeeve, while tabling the Bill, had emphasised that the Bill seeks to protect the rights of linguistic minorities, including citizens who consider Tamil, Kannada, Tulu and Konkani as their mother tongues.
- The Karnataka government has opposed the Bill, describing it as "unconstitutional" and contrary to the interests of the Kannada-speaking linguistic minority in Kerala, particularly those residing in the border district of Kasaragod

What is futuristic marine and space biotechnology?

How can India position itself as a leader in biomanufacturing?

Shambhavi Naik

The story so far:

Futuristic space and marine biotechnology research focuses on using underexplored environments, such as the deep oceans and outer space, to develop new biological knowledge, materials, and manufacturing processes. Marine biotechnology involves studying microorganisms, algae, and other marine life to discover bioactive compounds, enzymes, biomaterials, food ingredients, and biostimulants. These organisms have evolved to survive high pressure, salinity, low light, and nutrient-poor conditions. Space biotechnology, meanwhile, studies how microbes, plants, and human biological systems behave under microgravity and radiation.

Why does India need them?

India's long coastline of over 11,000 km and a vast Exclusive Economic Zone of over 2 million sq. km give it access to rich marine biodiversity and biomass. Yet its share of global marine outputs remains low, indicating significant untapped potential. Investing in marine biomanufacturing can unlock new sources of food, energy, chemicals, and biomaterials, while reducing pressure on land, freshwater, and agricultural systems. Similarly, space biotechnology is critical for India's long-term ambitions in space exploration, enabling safe food production, human health management, and biological manufacturing in extreme environments. Together, futuristic marine and space biotechnology can position India as a leader in biomanufacturing.

Where does India stand today?

India's domestic production of marine biomass such as seaweed remains modest, with an annual cultivated output of around 70,000 tonnes. As a result, India continues to import seaweed-derived components such as agar, carrageenan, and alginates for use in food, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, and medical applications. Targeted initiatives under the Blue Economy agenda, the Deep Ocean Mission, and, more recently, the BioE3 are pushing the sector toward integrated marine biomanufacturing, linking cultivation, extraction, and downstream applications. A small number of private players, such as Sea6 Energy and ClimaCrew, along with ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute and state-led initiatives such as the Vibrant Gujarat Regional Conference, are exploring pathways to scale marine biomass into high-value ingredients, and bio-based products. In space biotechnology, ISRO's microgravity biology programme is conducting experiments on microbes, algae, and biological systems to study food production, life-support regeneration, and human health in space. However, private-sector participation is limited as these technologies are still nascent.

What are other countries doing?

The European Union funds large-scale programmes on marine bioprospecting, algae-based biomaterials, and bioactive compounds, supported by shared research infrastructure such as the European Marine Biological Resource Centre. China has rapidly expanded seaweed aquaculture and marine bioprocessing. In space biotechnology, the U.S. leads through NASA and the International Space Station, where research on microbial behaviour, protein crystallisation, stem cells, and closed-loop life-support systems informs drug discovery, regenerative medicine, and long-duration human missions.

What next?

Marine and space biotechnology remain relatively unexplored frontiers, where early movers are likely to gain lasting strategic and technological advantages. The primary risk lies in slow and fragmented progress in research and development. A dedicated roadmap that defines timelines and outcomes for marine and space biotechnology would help channel resources more effectively.

Shambhavi Naik is chairperson, Takshashila Institution's Health & Life Sciences Policy.

THE GIST

- Futuristic space and marine biotechnology research focuses on using underexplored environments, such as the deep oceans and outer space, to develop new biological knowledge, materials, and manufacturing processes.
- In space biotechnology, ISRO's microgravity biology programme is conducting experiments on microbes, algae, and biological systems to study food production, life-support regeneration, and human health in space.
- Marine and space biotechnology remain relatively unexplored frontiers, where early movers are likely to gain lasting strategic and technological advantages.

BWSSB implements AI-based smart pump monitoring technology

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The new tech is expected to generate annual energy savings of over ₹40 crore, according to the board

Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has deployed AI-based smart pump monitoring and optimization technology, IPUMPNET, across 78 of its pumping stations.

This is expected to generate annual energy savings of over ₹40 crore, BWSSB said in a statement on Wednesday. The Board has also claimed that it is the first water utility globally to adopt this patented technology at such a massive scale.

"IPUMPNET is a fusion of real-time sensors, Artificial Intelligence (AI), and predictive diagnostics. Unlike traditional methods, this system continuously monitors the performance of pumps and detects hidden performance losses. The system has already identified several pumps consuming power significantly above their designated limits. Based on this data, the Board has initiated the process of replacing low-efficiency pumps with high-efficiency pumps," BWSSB Chairman V. Ram Prasath Manohar explained.

"This technology has enabled us to gain a deeper scientific understanding of our pumping infrastructure, helping us optimise energy use and ensure greater reliability in water supply," he further said.

"By preventing energy wastage, BWSSB is not only ensuring financial savings but is also reducing carbon emissions, thereby contributing significantly to Bengaluru's environmental sustainability," the board said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public is hereby notified that my client intends to purchase the property mentioned in the Schedule below from **Mr. H Shankar** who has represented that he has purchased the Schedule property from **P Narasimha Murthy** along with his wife, **Mrs. Pushpalatha V, sons, Mr. Darshan Gowda N and Master Tharun Gowda S** (minor represented by his father & natural guardian) vide Sale Deed dated 07/02/2024 registered as Doc.No.JPN-1-12226/2023-24 of Book-1 stored electronically in the centralized data cell on 7-02-2024 in the office of Sub-Registrar, Jayanagar (J P Nagar) Bangalore.

If any persons having claim, right, title and interest in the Schedule Property or any part thereof, may lodge their objections/claims with documentary evidence within 05 (five) days from the date of this notice to the undersigned.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Site No.330 formed by BDA, PID No. 6000009040 measuring East-West: 6.00 Mtrs., and North-South: 9.00., totally measuring 54.00 Sq. Mtrs.; situated at Anjanapura, 2nd Block, Bangalore and bounded on the East by: Site No.331, West by: Site No.329; North by: Site No.374 & South by: Road;

Place: Bengaluru
Date: 14-01-2026

Sd/-
CHANDAR K VITTAL, Advocate, #130, 8th Main Road, AGS Layout, Arehalli, Bengaluru-560061
Contact: 7259495959

Govt. of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY COMMISSIONER
DISTRICT URBAN DEVELOPMENT CELL
Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar
Email : dudcchamarajanagar@gmail.com, Ph No. : 08226-223761

No.DUDC/CMAN(M)PHASE-4 SCHEME/Corrigendum/CR:218/2021-22 Date : 09-01-2026

CORRIGENDUM

For the tender invited by the office of the under signed for the works bearing indent No:DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT53216 and DMA/2025-26/EL/WORK_INDENT 51453 vide tender notification No.DUDC/CMAN(M) PHASE-4 SCHEME/CR:218/2021-22, dated : 07.01.2026 the following modification in the first prime item among the four specified prime items the minimum quantities of which should have been executed by the bidder as mentioned in clause 3.2(c) of the scope of tender which specifies the qualification criteria of the bidder has become necessary and hence is being issued as follows. The following corrigendum shall here afterwards be treated as part of the bid document. Rest of the data and other conditions of the bid remain same.

Sl.No.	Item details as given in the bid document	Modified item to be read as
1.	Fabricating Supplying and erection of 9 mtr. long hot dip Galvanized Octagonal hot dip Pole	Fabricating Supplying and erection of hot dip Galvanized Poles
2.	Hot dip Galvanized M.S. Bracket with 1500 mm	Hot dip Galvanized M.S. Bracket
3.	1.1 kV, XLPE or Hear resistant PVC insulated, Armoured LT UG Cable.	LT UG Cable

Revised last date & time for submitting tender for the above works through KPPP:31.01.2026 up to 5:00 p.m. Revised date of opening of technical bid of the tender through KPPP: 02.02.2026 at 11:00 a.m. Revised date of Opening of Financial bid of the tender through KPPP: 09.02.2026 at 11:00 a.m. For detailed tender notification the tenderers may visit **www.chamarajanagaradudc.mrc.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
District Urban Development Cell,
Chamarajanagar District, Chamarajanagar.

No. : DIPR:CHANAGAR:633:2025-26

Rail Wheel Plant/Bela
(Distt. - Saran), Bihar - 841221

Open E-Tender Notice No: RWP/STORES/WORKS/ADVT/25-26/16, Dated: 10.01.2026. Tender No. S_RWP_TPT_RAIL_2025-26_02A, Due on 10.02.2026. "Principal Chief Materials Manager /Rail Wheel Plant, Bela for and on behalf of the President of India invites online "e-Open Tender" through Indian Railways E-Procurement Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in** for transportation of Scrap Rail. **1. Name of work with its location, Qty and completion period:** Transportation of Scrap Cut Rails. The above work involves (i) Collection of Scrap Rails at Various Railway Units/Locations (ii) Cutting of scrap Rails to a length size measuring up to 3 (three) Meters (iii) Loading of the Scrap cut Rail in to the vehicle (iv) Transportation of scrap cut Rail from various locations of Indian Railway to Rail Wheel Plant Bela, Saran, Bihar-841221 under distance slab 501-1000KM (taking average lead distance 750KM). Unloading at destination shall be done by Railway. Qty. 3432000 MT-KM Completion period: 12 months from the date of issuance of LOA. **2. Approx. cost of the work:** ₹ 1,66,79,520.00. **3. Earnest Money to be Deposited:** ₹ 2,33,400/-. **4. Tender closing date and time:** 10.02.2026 up to 14:15 hrs. **5. Website particulars, Notice Board location where complete details of tender can be seen and address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased etc.:** For full details and submission of bid kindly visit Portal (IREPS) **www.ireps.gov.in**. The prospective firms/bidders submitting bid are advised to remain in touch with IREPS Portal (**www.irpes.gov.in**) for updates including Addendum/Corrigendum/Cancellation with respect to the above tender because no such any notice/information concerned that shall be published in newspaper.

For Principal Chief Materials Manager/ RWP/Bela
RWP/CPRO/Advt/2025-26/100

KSHIP Asian Development Bank Project Karnataka State Highways Improvement Project

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಯೋಜನಾ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ)
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಪೂರಕ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560001
ಟೆಲಿಫೋನ್ ನಂ 91-80-22126758/59/61 E-mail : piukship@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕರಾಹೆಅಯೋ/ಯೋಅಫ/ಭೂಸ್ವಾ/ಎಸ್ಆರ್-11/2025-26/2753 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 14.01.2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಪತ್ರ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1964 ಕಲಂ 17(1)(2)ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ತನ್ನ ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಲೋಇ/ಇ-121/ಇಎಪಿ/2021 ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.01.2026 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಪತ್ರದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.01.2026 ರಂತೆ **ರಾಜ್ಯ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 26/57 ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ಯಾಕೇಜ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 3 (ಗದಗದಿಂದ-ಹೊನ್ನಾಳಿವರೆಗೆ)** ರಸ್ತೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಪಡಿಸುವ ಉದ್ದೇಶಕ್ಕಾಗಿ ಅಗತ್ಯವಿರುವ ಹಾವೇರಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹಾವೇರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಬೆಳವಿಗಿ, ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೊನ್ನತ್ತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ರಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹಳ್ಳೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಕೈಬಿಟ್ಟ / ಹೆಚ್ಚುವರಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳನ್ನು ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಹೆದ್ದಾರಿ ಕಾಯ್ದೆ 1964ರ ಕಲಂ 15ರ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಧಿಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ. ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಿಂದ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ವಿವರಗಳುಳ್ಳ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿನ ಹಕ್ಕು ಸ್ವಾಮಿತ್ವವನ್ನು ಪರಿಶಮನಗೊಳಿಸಿ ರಾಜ್ಯ ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ತನ್ನ ಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಜಮೀನುಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ರೀತಿಯ ಆಸಕ್ತಿವುಳ್ಳವರು ಖುದ್ದಾಗಿ ಅಥವಾ ಅವರ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ಉಪವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಹಾವೇರಿ ಉಪವಿಭಾಗ, ಹಾವೇರಿ (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08375232468)** ರವರ ಸಮಕ್ಷಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಲಿಖಿತ ರೂಪದಲ್ಲಿ (ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ) ತಮ್ಮ ಹಕ್ಕು ಬಾಧ್ಯತೆಗಳ ಬಗ್ಗೆ, **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.02.2026** ರ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹಾಜರುಪಡಿಸಿ ಪರಿಹಾರ ಕುರಿತು ಕ್ಲೈಮ್ (Claim) ಮಾಡಲು ಅಥವಾ ಯೋಜನಾ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಘಟಕದಿಂದ ನೇಮಕಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಕೆಶಿಪ್ ಸಿಬ್ಬಂದಿ ತಮ್ಮನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿದಲ್ಲಿ ಅವರಿಗೆ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ನೀಡಲು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದೆ.

-: ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್:-

ಗ್ರಾಮ : ಬೆಳವಗಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು : ಹಾವೇರಿ
ಹೋಬಳಿ : ಗುತ್ತಲ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಹಾವೇರಿ

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಖಾತೆದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು ಪಹಣಿಯಂತೆ ಶ್ರೀಯುತರು/ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್	ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ			ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ			
			ಐನು ಎ-ಗುಂಟೆ	ಖರಾಬು ಎ-ಗುಂಟೆ	ಬಾಕಿ ಎ-ಗುಂಟೆ	ಪೂರ್ವ	ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ	ಉತ್ತರ	ದಕ್ಷಿಣ
1	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಅರವಿಂದರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಬಿನ್ ಕೃಷ್ಣರೆಡ್ಡಿ	33/3ಬ	0-05.00	–	0-05.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	33/ಬ ಉಳಿಕೆ ಜಮೀನು	33/3ಅ	34
2	ಅಂಬಿಗೇರ ಹುಚ್ಚಪ್ಪ ಬಿನ್ ಗುಡ್ಡಪ್ಪ	33/3ಅ	0-03.00	–	0-03.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	33/3ಅ ಉಳಿಕೆ ಜಮೀನು	33/2ಅ 33/10	33/3ಬ & ರಸ್ತೆ
3	ಕಟಾರಿಯಾ ರಾಜೇಶ ಬಿನ್ ಸಂಪತ್‌ರಾಜ	33/2ಅ	0-06.00	–	0-06.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	33/2ಅ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	33/2ಬ	33/3ಅ
4	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಜನಾರ್ಧನರಡ್ಡಿ ಬಿನ್ ತಿರಕರಡ್ಡಿ	33/2ಬ	0-03.00	–	0-03.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	33/2ಬ ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	33/6	33/2ಅ
5	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಜಯರಾಮರಡ್ಡಿ ಬಿನ್ ತಿರಕರಡ್ಡಿ	33/6	0-15.00	–	0-15.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	33/6 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	33/5	33/2ಬ
6	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಕೇಶವರಡ್ಡಿ ಬಿನ್ ತಿರಕರಡ್ಡಿ	33/5	0-12.00	–	0-12.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	33/5ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	33/11	33/6
7	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಜಯರಾಮರಡ್ಡಿ ಬಿನ್ ತಿರಕರಡ್ಡಿ	33/10	0-04.00	–	0-04.00	33/10ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	33/14	33/3ಅ ಪೈಕಿ
8	1) ತಂಗೋಡ ಶಶಿಕಲಾ ಕೋಂ ಕೋಟೆಪ್ಪ, 2) ತಂಗೋಡ ನಿಂಗರಾಜ ಬಿನ್ ಕೋಟೆಪ್ಪ	34/1	0-05.00	–	0-05.00	34/1ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	32	35
9	ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಕೋಂ ನಾಮರಡ್ಡಿ ಹಾದಿಮನಿ ಕೋಂ ನಾಮರಡ್ಡಿ	35/1	0-01.00	–	0-01.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	35/1ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	35/10	35/2ಅ/1
10	ಶೇಖಿರಗೌಡ ತಂದೆ ಪುಟ್ಟನಗೌಡ ಪಾಟೀಲ ಬಿನ್ ಪುಟ್ಟನಗೌಡ	35/10	0-01.00	–	0-01.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	35/10ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	34	35/1
11	1) ಪೂಜಾರ ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಕೋಂ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ 2) ಪೂಜಾರ ಫಕ್ಕಿರೇಶ ತಂದೆ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ 3) ಪೂಜಾರ ಬಸವರಾಜ ತಂದೆ ಮಂಜುನಾಥ	35/2ಅ/1	0-01.00	–	0-01.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	35/2ಅ/1ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	35/1	35/2ಬ/1
12	ಚನಬಸಪ್ಪ ತಂದೆ ವೀರಭದ್ರಪ್ಪ ಕೋಳೂರು	35/2ಬ/1	0-01.00	–	0-01.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	35/2ಬ/1 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	35/2ಅ/1	36
13	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಕುಮಾರಡ್ಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ (ಉತ್ತರ)	36/1+2+3/ಅ/1	0-03.00	–	0-03.00	36/1+2+3/ಅ/1 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	35	36/1+2+3/ಅ/2
14	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಮಿಲಂದರಡ್ಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ (ದಕ್ಷಿಣ)	36/1+2+3/ಅ/2	0-03.00	–	0-03.00	36/1+2+3/ಅ/2 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	36/1+2+3/ಅ/1	36/1+2+3/ಬ/1
15	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಮಿಲಂದರಡ್ಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ (ದಕ್ಷಿಣ)	36/1+2+3/ಬ/1	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	36/1+2+3/ಬ/1 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	36/1+2+3/ಅ/2	36/1+2+3/ಬ/2
16	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಕುಮಾರರಡ್ಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ (ಉತ್ತರ)	36/1+2+3/ಬ/2	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	36/1+2+3/ಬ/2 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	36/1+2+3/ಬ/1	36/4ಅ
17	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಕುಮಾರರಡ್ಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ (ಉತ್ತರ)	36/4ಅ	0-04.00	–	0-04.00	36/4ಅ ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	36/1+2+3/ಬ/2	36/5ಅ
18	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಕುಮಾರರಡ್ಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ (ಉತ್ತರ)	36/5ಅ	0-03.00	–	0-03.00	36/5ಅ ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	36/4ಅ	36/6ಅ
19	ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಕುಮಾರರಡ್ಡಿ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ (ಉತ್ತರ)	36/6ಅ	0-04.00	–	0-04.00	36/6ಅ ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	36/5ಅ	36/9
20	ಮಿಲಿಂದ ಜಟ್ಟಿಪ್ಪನವರ ಬಿನ್ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ	36/9	0-04.00	–	0-04.00	36/9 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	36/6ಅ	36/10ಬ
21	ಹನುಮಂತಪ್ಪ ಗುಡ್ಡಪ್ಪ ಗಳಗನಾಥ ಬಿನ್	36/12	0-10.00	–	0-10.00	36/12 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	36/10ಬ	37
22	ಹುಲ್ಲತ್ತಿ ರಾಘವೇಂದ್ರ ಬಿನ್ ಬಸವರಡ್ಡಿ	37/1+2/3	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	37/1+2/3ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	36	ಹಿ 37/1+2/5 ರ ಪೈಕಿ
23	ಹುಲ್ಲತ್ತಿ ವಿಷ್ಣುರಡ್ಡಿ ಬಿನ್ ಫಕ್ಕೀರಡ್ಡಿ	37/1+2/5	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	37/1+2/5 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	37/1+2/3	37/3+4+5 +6/1 ರ ಪೈಕಿ
24	ವಿಮಲಾ ಕೋಂ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕರಡ್ಡೇರ ಕೋಂ ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ	37/3+4 +5+6/1	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	37/3+4 +5+6/1 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	37/1+2/5	38
25	ಜೋಶಿ ಬಲರಾಮ-ಮಾರ್ತಂಡಭಟ್ಟ	39/1ಅ+ 1ಬ/2	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	39/1ಅ+1ಬ/2ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	38	ರಸ್ತೆ
26	ಜೋಶಿ ಮದೇವ ಭಟ್ಟ ಮಾರ್ತಂಡಭಟ್ಟ	39/1ಅ+ 1ಬ/3	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	39/1ಅ+1ಬ/3ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	39/1ಅ+ 1ಬ/2	39/3
27	ತಬರಡ್ಡಿ ಭೀಮರಡ್ಡಿ – ವೆಂಕರಡ್ಡಿ	39/3	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	39/3 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	39/1ಅ+ 1ಬ/3	39/3
28	ಶೇಕರಡ್ಡಿ ತಬರಡ್ಡಿ ಉರ್ಫ ಮೇಲಗಿರಿಯಪ್ಪನವರ-ಬಿನ್ ರಾಮರಡ್ಡಿ	39/5	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	ರಸ್ತೆ	39/5 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	39/3	40
29	1) ಹೊಸಗೌಡ್ರ ನೀಲಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಬಸನಗೌಡ 2) ಹಿರೇಗೌಡ್ರ ಶಂಕ್ರಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಸುರೇಶಗೌಡ 3) ಹೊಸಗೌಡ್ರ ಶಿವನಗೌಡ ಬಿನ್ ಬಸನಗೌಡ 4)ಹೊಸಗೌಡ್ರ ಪ್ರಭುಗೌಡ ಬಿನ್ ಬಸನಗೌಡ 5) ಕೆಂಚನಗೌಡ್ರ ಗಿರಿಜವ್ವವ ಕೋಂ ರವೀಂದ್ರ	46/1	0-04.00	–	0-04.00	46/1 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	45	47
30	ಸರಕಾರ (ಹೊಸಗೌಡ್ರ 1-ಚನಬಸನಗೌಡ 2.ಶಿದ್ದನಗೌಡ-ತಂ. ಶಂಕರಗೌಡ)	46/2	0-04.00	–	0-04.00	46/2 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	45	46/3
31	ಚಿಕ್ಕಭರಮಣ್ಣನವರ ನಾಗರಡ್ಡಿ-ಕೃಷ್ಣರಡ್ಡಿ (ಉತ್ತರ)	48/5	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	48/5 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	48/6 & 48/7	48/3
32	ಕರೇಗೌಡ್ರ ಪಕ್ಕೀರಗೌಡ ಪರಮೇಶ್ವರಗೌಡ	52/3	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	52/3 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	52/2/3	52/6
33	1) ಲಲಿತಾ ಮರಿಗೌಡ ಸಂಕನಗೌಡ್ರ 2) ಚಂದ್ರಗೌಡ ಮರಿಗೌಡ ಸಂಕನಗೌಡ್ರ s/o ಮರಿಗೌಡ 3) ವೀರನಗೌಡ ಮರಿಗೌಡ ಸಂಕನಗೌಡ್ರ s/o ಮರಿಗೌಡ 4) ನಿರ್ಮಲಾ ಹನುಮಂತಗೌಡ ಸಂಕನಗೌಡ್ರ 5) ಬಸನಗೌಡ ಸಂಕನಗೌಡ್ರ s/o ಹನುಮಂತಗೌಡ ಸಂಕನಗೌಡರ 6) ನಿವೇದಿತಾ ಹನುಮಂತಗೌಡ ಸಂಕನಗೌಡ್ರು-ತಂದೆ/ತಾಯಿಯ ಹೆಸರು :ಹನುಮಂತಗೌಡ	52/6	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	52/6 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	52/3	55
	ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ		3-00.00	–	3-00.00				

ಗ್ರಾಮ : ಹಳ್ಳೂರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು : ರಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ
ಹೋಬಳಿ : ರಟ್ಟಿಹಳ್ಳಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಹಾವೇರಿ

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಖಾತೆದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು ಪಹಣಿಯಂತೆ ಶ್ರೀಯುತರು/ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್	ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ			ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ			
			ಐನು ಎ-ಗುಂಟೆ	ಖರಾಬು ಎ-ಗುಂಟೆ	ಬಾಕಿ ಎ-ಗುಂಟೆ	ಪೂರ್ವ	ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ	ಉತ್ತರ	ದಕ್ಷಿಣ
34	1) ಲಲಿತಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ಹನುಮಂತಪ್ಪ ಶಿಂಧೆ 2) ಶಂಕರನಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೇಮಾವತಿ 3)ಎತೋಜಿ ತಂದೆ ಹನುಮಂತಪ್ಪ ಶಿಂಧೆ 4) ಭಾಗ್ಯ ಶಂಕರನಹಳ್ಳಿ	96/4	0-02.00	–	0-02.00	ಲಾಗು ಹಿ ನಂ.6	ಲಾಗು ಹಿ ನಂ.95	ಲಾಗು ಹಿ ನಂ.1ಅ/1	ಲಾಗು ಹಿ ನಂ ನಂ.5
35	ಎತೋಜಿ ತಂದೆ ಹನುಮಂತಪ್ಪ ಶಿಂಧೆ ಬಿನ್ ಹನುಮಂತಪ್ಪ	96/5	0-06.00	–	0-06.00	ಬ್ಲಾಕ್2 ಲಾಹಿ ನಂ.17 ರಸ್ತೆ	96/5 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ಲಾಗು ಹಿ ನಂ.4	ಲಾಗು ಹಿ ನಂ 1ಅ/2,12
	ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ		0-08.00	0-08.00					

ಗ್ರಾಮ : ಹೊನ್ನತ್ತಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು : ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು
ಹೋಬಳಿ : ರಾಣೇಬೆನ್ನೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ : ಹಾವೇರಿ

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ	ಖಾತೆದಾರರ ಹೆಸರು ಪಹಣಿಯಂತೆ ಶ್ರೀಯುತರು/ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ	ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರ್	ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಕ್ಕೆ ಒಳಪಡುವ ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ			ಚಕ್ಕುಬಂದಿ			
			ಐನು ಎ-ಗುಂಟೆ	ಖರಾಬು ಎ-ಗುಂಟೆ	ಬಾಕಿ ಎ-ಗುಂಟೆ	ಪೂರ್ವ	ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ	ಉತ್ತರ	ದಕ್ಷಿಣ
36	ನಾಗಮ್ಮ ಕೋಂ ನಿಂಗಪ್ಪ ಬಣಕಾರ	78ಅ ಪೈಕಿ	0-10.00	–	0-10.00	78/ಅ/5 ರ ಉಳಿದ ಜಮೀನು	ರಸ್ತೆ	78/ಅ/4	78/ಅ/6
	ಒಟ್ಟು ವಿಸ್ತೀರ್ಣ		0-10.00	0-10.00					

ಸಹಿ/-
(ಜಯಮಾಧವ ಪಿ.)
ಕೆ.ಎ.ಎಸ್. (ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಶ್ರೇಣಿ)
ವಿಶೇಷ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾಧಿಕಾರಿ (ಭೂಸ್ವಾ),
ಯೋ.ಅ.ಫ., ಕ.ರಾ.ಹೆ.ಅ.ಯೋ.
ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ವೃತ್ತ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾಪ್ರ/5044/ಎಂಎಎ/25-26

FULL CONTEXT

GETTY IMAGES

Who pays starting salaries of over ₹2 crore per year to fresh graduates?

High frequency trading firms are offering fresh graduates starting salaries in the ₹2 crore range, reflecting a growing trend of high-paying job offers in India's premier educational institutions. Such jobs offer exciting career opportunities both in terms of money and job satisfaction

O.R.S. Rao

The story so far:
Optive, a Netherlands-based global trading company, has offered a starting salary of ₹2.5 crore to a B.Tech (Computer Science) student of IIT Hyderabad.

What is behind the rise of the ₹2-crore recruiter club?
Such high starting salaries are not new. Last year, a student at IIT Madras received a record-breaking offer of ₹4.3 crore per year, for the role of a Quantitative Trader in Jane Street, a Wall Street trading firm from the U.S. The competitive landscape of campus placements of over ₹1 crore per year is estimated to have tripled from about 60 offers in 2021 to 180 in 2025. The share of ₹2-crore+ offers, though still small, has been growing steeply. This phenomenon is not a blip any longer.

The large-ticket "Day-1" financial trading recruiters of the current placement season at IIT Bombay are reported to have offered salaries ranging from ₹2.2 crore to ₹3.6 crore per year. It clearly shows that the trend will continue, despite the impact of artificial intelligence (AI).

In the last five years, the "₹2-Crore Club" has grown to be a robust technology-driven financial stock trading ecosystem. It is helmed by Quantitative Trading (QT) firms, who leverage technology for quick trades in a fraction of seconds. High Frequency Traders (HFT) further automate the trades, without any need for human intervention, using the power of efficient algorithms.

Jane Street and Optiver are not alone. Hudson River Trading (HRT) offered over ₹2.2 crore for an Algorithmic Developer post, whereas Da Vinci Derivatives offered salary packages exceeding ₹2 crore for the role of a Quant Researcher. NK Securities followed with around ₹1.65 crore while Rubrik has extended ₹1.49-crore offers. Other firms in this league include Citadel Securities, IMC Trading, Graviton Research, APT Portfolio, Atlas Research, Quadeye, Quantbox, The Trade Desk, and others.

Around 70% of them have been repeat recruiters, who view the IITs as their primary talent pipeline globally. A few years back, the hunting ground for these recruiters was limited to first generation IITs, but recent years have seen entry of second generation IITs like Hyderabad, IIT(BHU) and IIITs like Allahabad and Raipur.

How can they afford to pay such high salaries?
In order to understand why and how these firms pay such high salaries, one must look at their business model, particularly, of how they make money. Most of them are medium-sized proprietary financial trading houses and earn profits by leveraging price arbitrage, buying and selling stocks between two stock exchanges like NASDAQ and New York Stock Exchange, for tiny profits – as low as $0.01 per share. By executing millions of such trades in seconds they make massive profits.

A software developer at an HFT firm, who can reduce even a few microseconds in execution of a program can generate an extra profit of millions of dollars in a month. As the intellectual efforts of the developer are directly and quickly translated into profit, it is not difficult for the firm to share a part of the profit. This is why these firms hire the best of engineers to optimise every line of the program. These firms are lean with low overheads, with only 200-500 employees, which allows them to distribute a significant portion of their trading profit as bonuses to the employees. A significant portion of the "2 crore" packages, going up to 40%, is the performance bonus.

What are the roles offered and skills needed?
A quantitative trader takes trading decisions in a live trading desk, using game theory and probability. A quantitative researcher analyses historical data to find patterns or "signals" that predict future price movements and devise trading strategies using advanced Statistics, Stochastic Calculus, and Machine Learning. A low-latency developer builds the ultra-fast engines that execute the trades, leveraging the mastery of low-latency expertise in areas like memory management and concurrency.

Typically, these firms look for people with a deep knowledge of algorithms, low level systems and mastery in areas like probability, linear algebra, and game theory. While financial literacy is not always mandatory, an understanding of the financial market microstructure and derivatives is an advantage.

Prior work experience is not essential for these roles, as the firms look for youngsters with exceptional quantitative aptitude, deep conceptual understanding of Mathematics, proficiency in programming, and smart problem-solving abilities. Most firms prefer fresh graduates for their innovative and out-of-the-box thinking ability. In terms of behavioural traits, they look for people that can work under pressure, without losing balance of mind.

Generally, the aspirants go through multiple rounds of rigorous interviews, involving "Brainteaser" rounds, probability puzzles and low-latency C++ coding skills. Most Quant and HFT firms prefer the Pre-Placement Offer (PPO) route for recruitment, where students are selected after a rigorous internship of eight weeks.

What are domestic posting salaries?
Total compensation called Cost-To-Company (CTC) often includes base salary, guaranteed/target bonus, relocation/sign-on bonus, and Restricted Stock Units (RSUs) as employee stock options, and profit-sharing bonus. Because most of the roles are based abroad, in locations like Amsterdam, Dublin, Hong Kong, London and New York, the salary packages convert into Indian Rupees of 2 crore or more. Some companies offer domestic postings, with salaries ranging from ₹60 lakh to ₹1.2 crore.

A ₹2 crore international offer (based in Europe) is roughly equal to a ₹60 lakh offer in India in terms of lifestyle and savings, considering the cost of living and taxes. Students need to keep this in mind, while comparing international offers with domestic offers.

Are there career growth avenues?
Such jobs offer exciting career opportunities both in terms of money and job satisfaction, particularly for students that are strong in mathematics and enjoy solving probability brainteasers. However, there will be intense day-to-day job pressure, due to the live trading environment, which does not tolerate even small mistakes. Besides burn-out, career growth may be limited to the financial technology sector.

While the volume of entry-level roles in traditional IT services is shrinking, due to AI-driven automation, the demand for specialised talent is growing. The Quant and High-Frequency Trading sector is just one example of competitive bidding for the natural human intelligence needed to solve problems that AI is yet to master.

O.R.S. Rao is Chancellor of the ICFAI university, Sikkim. Views are personal.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning of the expression "Catch 22"? (A. Shanmuga Sundaram, Chitlapakam, Chennai)
"Catch 22" is the title of a novel written in the early 1960s by the American novelist Joseph Heller. The story is set in the Second World War and it deals with a group of Air Force pilots who are sent on dangerous bombing missions. After completing a certain number of missions, it was possible for these airmen to request for release from combat duty. But in order to be relieved, the pilots had to prove they were insane and therefore unfit for combat duty. The very fact that they pleaded insanity showed they were sane because only sane people would wish to avoid combat duty! As the pilots couldn't prove they were insane, they had no option but to continue with their bombing missions. The pilots were caught in a no win situation. In order to stop flying missions, they had to plead insanity, but once they pleaded insanity they were adjudged sane and therefore not released. That was the hidden trick or the catch! The expression "catch 22" when used in everyday contexts has come to mean a no win situation; no matter what you do, you will fail. A "catch 22" is a dilemma; you are caught in circumstances from which there is no escape. Here are a few examples:

These days the big companies are hiring only people with experience. But how can one get experience without a job? It's a real "catch 22" situation. Getting a famous star to act in your film is a "catch 22". He will never act in your film unless you are a well known director; and you will never be a well known director unless you have made hit movies with famous stars. Getting an agent is a "catch 22". You won't get one unless you have published and you cannot publish unless you have one!

What is the difference in meaning between "possible" and "probable"? (S. Vidyadharan, Hyderabad)
When you say that something is "possible", what you are implying is that it may happen. You are not really sure if it will happen, but there is a chance of it happening. For example, when the weatherman says that "rain is possible", what he means is that it may rain. But he is not certain of it; for all you know, it may not rain. "Probable", on the other hand, is much more stronger in meaning than "possible". When you say that something is "probable", you are pretty sure that it will happen or is likely to happen. There are so many indications of it happening that you strongly believe that it will happen. The day before the team for any sporting event is announced, newspapers list the "probable" players. The list consists of those players that the reporters are sure will be selected. Similarly, when you say that rain is probable, what you are implying is that it is likely to rain. There is evidence of it in the sky; perhaps it is very cloudy. There is not 100 per cent certainty in either possible or probable, but "probable" carries greater evidence of certainty than "possible".
Published in The Hindu on April 27, 1999.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Following the failure of the PSLV-C62 mission, here's a quiz remembering the storied history of ISRO's PSLV rocket

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
The liquid-fuelled second stage of the PSLV rocket uses the Vikas engine, which is based on the French Viking engine. In 1974, rather than pay cash, ISRO acquired this technology from France in exchange for 100 man-years of engineering work, helping produce parts for the European _____ rocket, and thousands of pressure transducers. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2
To steer the massive first stage, the PSLV doesn't gimbal, or tilt, the main engine nozzle. Instead, it injects a chemical solution of X into one side of the nozzle's exhaust flow to create an asymmetric thrust that pushes the rocket in the desired direction. This is its Secondary Injection Thrust Vector Control. Name X.

QUESTION 3
In February 2017, the PSLV-C37 mission set a world record by launching 104 satellites in a single flight. This required a complex deployment sequence where satellites were deployed in pairs at precise angles to keep them from colliding. Which SpaceX mission broke this record in 2021?

QUESTION 4
Instead of discarding the PSLV's fourth stage (PS4) as debris, ISRO often repurposes it as a stabilised orbital platform called POEM. It remains active in orbit for months, hosting student payloads and scientific experiments, thus serving as a temporary satellite. What does POEM stand for?

QUESTION 5
The PSLV rocket's first stage solid motor is encased in _____ steel, an ultra-high-strength alloy whose name is a portmanteau of 'martensitic' and 'ageing'. Because international export controls restricted access to this material, ISRO had to develop the ability to make this steel indigenously. Fill in the blank.

Visual question:
Between the SLV and the PSLV programmes, ISRO ran the Y programme for seven years. Name Y (in its full form), one of whose launches is shown here. ISRO

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The birthplace of Mahasweta Devi. **Ans: Dacca, Bengal Presidency, British India (now Dhaka, Bangladesh)**
2. The title of Mahasweta Devi's first published novel. Ans: ***Jhansir Rani (The Queen of Jhansi)***
3. The English translation of her novel *Aranyer Adhikar.* **Ans: The Right of the Forest**
4. The distinguished international award she received in 1997. **Ans: Ramon Magsaysay Award**
5. The prestigious Indian literary prize she won in 1996. **Ans: Jnanpith Award**
6. Devi's short stories were translated into English by this scholar. **Ans: Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak**
7. She received this civil award in 1986. **Ans: Padma Shri**
Visual: Name this 1998 movie directed by Govind Nihalani. **Ans: *Hajar Churashir Maa***
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Tamal Biswas| Arun Kumar Singh| Sonali Das| Dodo Jayaditya

Word of the day

Extempore:
without prior preparation; with little or no preparation or forethought

Synonyms: ad-lib, impromptu, off-the-cuff, offhand, unrehearsed

Usage: *It was an extempore skit.*

Pronunciation:
newsth.live/extemporepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɛkˈstɛmpəɹi/, /ɪkˈstɛmpəɹi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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Blackberry | Pepe Jeans | Celio | Basics Life | Van Heusen | Raymond | U.S. Polo Assn.
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Neerus | Avantra | Saundh | Jaypore | Meena Bazaar | Biba | Aurelia | Soch | W | Go Colors
Allen Solly Women | ONLY | Vero Moda | Kazo | Rareism | United Colors of Benetton Kids
Tommy Hilfiger Kids | Allen Solly Kids | U.S. Polo Assn. Kids | Bewakoof | Ethos | Hidesign
Kompanero | ALDO Accessories | M.A.C | Parcos | Bath & Body Works | The Body Shop
Health & Glow | Page3 Salon | Miniso | Uni Seoul | Samsonite | Wildcraft | William Penn
Caterpillar | Steve Madden | ALDO | Hush Puppies | Adidas | New Balance | Puma | Asics
Skechers | Reebok | Crocs | Bata | Woodland | Inc.5 | Sunglass Hut | GKB Opticals | Lenskart
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M BG-BGE

Researchers develop AI tool to predict how shapeshifting proteins connect inside cells

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Researchers at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Bengaluru, have developed a deep-learning tool that can predict how intrinsically disordered proteins (IDP) latch on to their binding partners.

A file photo of NCBS in Bengaluru. Kartik Majila, lead author of the study, and his team benchmarked Disobind against predictors, including AlphaFold-multimer and AlphaFold3.

Central to life

Proteins usually fold into specific shapes; However, IDPs, which are shapeshifting molecules vital to cellular communication, don't form a fixed structure. Central to life, they guide signalling networks, help proteins move and find partners within the cell, regulate which genes are switched on or off, support protein folding and quality control, and assemble flexible cellular hubs called condensates.

But their flexibility has made it challenging to figure out how they attach to other molecules and to map them using traditional structural biology or computational tools.

On the other hand, it is crucial to understand this interaction to decode cell communication, understand disease mechanisms and design more precise treatments.

Disobind

The tool, named Disobind and developed by the researchers, analyses the protein sequences and uses protein language models (a form of AI trained on millions of known protein sequences) to forecast which parts of a floppy, flexible protein will make contact with another protein molecule. Unlike current structure prediction methods, Disobind does not require any structural information or sequence alignments, and importantly, considers the binding partner.

This is crucial because context influences interaction in the case of these floppy proteins.

Kartik Majila, lead author of the study, and his team benchmarked Disobind against predictors including AlphaFold-multimer and AlphaFold3. Disobind delivered consistently higher accuracy when tested on new protein pairs it had not seen before.

When combined with AlphaFold-multimer predictions, performance improved even further.

Drug design

"Applications span from disease biology to drug design. With Disobind, we can begin to reveal new interaction motifs linked to disease, suggest intervention points for regulating IDR-mediated interactions across the proteome, and better position disordered segments within large molecular assemblies," said Shruthi Viswanath, who leads the Integrative Structural Biology Lab at NCBS.

Cancer

The team demonstrated Disobind's capability across diverse biological systems from immune signalling molecules to repair proteins implicated in cancer and neurodegeneration.

Disobind is open-source and freely available for researchers worldwide.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

Call our toll-free number
1800 102 1878
Or write to us at
customercare@thehindu.co.in

Scan the QR code to register your feedback

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ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOL

ASC CENTRE & COLLEGE AGRAM - POST, BANGALORE-560007
Phone: 080 25550677
Website: www.apsasc.edu.in

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed quotations are invited for Purchase of chairs (for Labs), mid back without arms black cloth material at Army Public School ASC Centre & College (APS ASC C&C). Tender Enquiry/Form can be collected from school office after payment of Rs.300/- (Demand Draft in favour of APS ASC C&C) from 15 Jan 2026 to 22 Jan 2026 (0900hrs to 1215hrs). Last date and time to submit filled tender form is 22 Jan 2026 at 1230 hrs.AM.

Presiding Officer/Member 1
For School Management

Government of Karnataka

DEPARTMENT OF MINES & GEOLOGY

Office of the Senior Geologist, Uttara Kannada, Karwar-581306
Phone: 08382-227395

No. DMG/UKD/IR-01/2025-26 Date:14-01-2026

e-AUCTION PUBLICATION

Invites the e-applications for auction of disposal of Iron Ore stocked at Karwar Port, Karwar, Uttara Kannada district. Interested persons/companies/firm/agencies can apply through KPP portal Auction No: **DMG/2025-26/AUCTION47** e-Auction documents and annexures can be downloaded from the KPP portal website **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for uploading the Annexures and submission of e-application is **31-01-2026.** Live bidding is scheduled from: **07-02-2026 at 11:00 AM to 01:30 PM** Application and Bids shall be submitted through KPP portal only.

Sd/-, Senior Geologist/e-Auction Inviting Authority
Department of Mines & Geology, Karwar

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/943/25-26 dt.14.01.2026

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

DISTRICT PLANNING CO-ORDINATORS OFFICE, S.S.K., VIJAYAPUR.

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Samagra Shikshana Karnataka Vijayapur Dist Office inviting E-Tenders under the comprehensive Education-Karnataka Scheme, for human resource services, food supply of "various equipments and educational materials for children with special needs" for resource strengthening centers for KGBV residential schools/hostels and district and block offices on outsourcing basis. For more information please log in to https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact office phone number: 9448999389 & 9448999331 the following tenders are invited.

1) Tender reference no: SSK/2025-26/IND0213
2) Tender reference no: SSK/2025-26/SE0311
3) Tender reference no: SSK/2025-26/SE0312
4) Tender reference no: SSK/2025-26/SE0313
5) Tender reference no: SSK/2025-26/SE0314
6) Tender reference no: SSK/2025-26/SE0315

Sd/- DDPI & DPO, SSK, VIJAYAPUR

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಿಜಯಪುರ/619/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION

Office of The Commissioner, Bengaluru Central City Corporation, 10th Floor P.U. Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru -01

No.: BCCC /JC-1/Tend/02/2025-26 Date: 14.01.2026

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru Central City Corporation invites Application From Retired District And Session Judge for The Post Of The **"Head Of the Legal Cell"**

- Tenure O f the Post one year Initially Continuation up to 3 years based on performance
- Consolidated Salary as per K.C.S. Rules
- Leave and medical Facilities as per the BCCC Employees
- Mode of selection through an interview

Application of plain paper with complete Bio-data and supporting documents addressed to the

Commissioner , Bengaluru Central City Corporation, 10th Floor, P.U. Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-01

duly representing on the cover as "Application for the post of Head of Legal Cell" should reach on or before **23.01.2026** only application sent through post will be accepted.

Sd/-,
Additional Commissioner (Revenue),
Bengaluru Central City Corporation

भारतीय खेल प्राधिकरण
SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
खेल विभाग / DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports)
(युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय के तहत एक स्वायत्त निकाय)

Room No. 210, SAI-Head Office Building, SAI-Headquarter, Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium Complex (East Gate-No. 10) Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003

File No.: 01-04001(02)/12/2023-HO - Personnel Division

SPORTS AUTHORITY OF INDIA INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR LEAD (SPORTS SCIENCE) ON CONTRACT BASIS

Sports Authority of India (SAI), an autonomous organization under Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, invites applications from eligible, qualified, and motivated Indian Citizens for engagement to the **01 post of Senior Lead (Sports Science) on contract basis** for a maximum period of 04 years. The details of the post and other details is available on the SAI website i.e. **http://sportsauthorityofindia.nic.in.** The schedule for applying application is given below:-

i. **Date of submission of application form: 02.01.2026 (10:00 AM)**
ii. **Last date of submission of application form: 01.02.2026 (05:00 PM)**

(DEPUTY DIRECTOR)
(HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION-II)
(SAI HEAD OFFICE)

cbc 47103/12/0016/2526

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the schedule property from Sri. Lakshman S/o Sri. Muniyanna who had acquired the same through a registered Gift Deed dated 01-03-2018 registered as Document No.RRN-1-06159-2017-18 stored in CD No. RRND197 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Rajarajeswari Nagar, Bangalore executed by his brother Sri. M. Muniyappa who had earlier purchased the same from Sri. Balaji House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd under a registered sale deed dated 05-08-2005 registered as Document No. KEN-1-09648-2005-06 stored in CD No. KEND220 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri

That it is informed to us that the original of the sale deed dated 05-08-2005 registered as Document No. KEN-1-09648-2005-06 stored in CD No. KEND220 in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Kengeri and the original Possession certificate issued by Sri. Balaji House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd are lost and inspite of the best efforts same could not be traced. A police complaint is also lodged in this regard.

Therefore, it is requested that the general public who ever may find the said original documents or person in possession of the said original documents to hand over the same to the undersigned within one week from the date of this publication.

It is therefore requested that the general public who have any claim over the schedule property or objection for the proposed purchase shall lodge such claim/objection in writing along with supporting documents with the undersigned **within Fifteen days** from the date of publication of this notice. If no such claim or objection is received, my client will complete the deal as proposed. Time barred claim/objection if any will not be binding on my client.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential vacant Site demarcated as the Site No. 226/M, BBMP EPID No. 1951357640, Khata No. 226/M. in the layout plan approved by the Bangalore Development Authority, vide Resolution No. 132/I97 dated 15-09-1997 formed by "Sree Balaji House Building Co-Operative Society Ltd in various Survey Numbers of Vajarahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, in Sy.Nos. 63/2, 63/3, 63/4, 64, 65/2, 65/5, 67, 68/1, 69/2, 69/3, 74, 75/1, 76, 78/1, 78/2, 78/3, 78/4, 78/6, 79/1, 81, 82, 84/3, 88, 89/1 named as "DWARAKA NAGAR", Bangalore, measuring East to West 34 feet and North to South 48 feet, in all measuring 1632 Sq. feet and bounded on:

East by : Site No. 226N,
West by : Road,
North by : Road,
South by : Site No. 226G and Road.

P.Mahalinga Bhat and Srividya P.M,
Advocates,
Office Address: No.2386,T F-2, 3rd Floor, Keerthi Kuteeram Apartment, Pipeline Road, K.S. Layout, Bangalore – 78
Mobile - 9341215791
Bangalore/Dated : 14-01-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client is intending to purchase all that piece and parcel of immovable agricultural property bearing Survey No.199/1, measuring 01 Acre 04 Guntas, including 04 Guntas of "A" Kharab, situated at Dunturu Village, Satanuru Hobli, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramanagara District, which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as **"Schedule Property".** During the course of verification and examination of the title deeds relating to the Schedule Property, it has been noticedthat the original Sale Deed dated 08.09.1992, registered as Document No.1585/1992-93, in Book I, Volume No. 2679, at pages 173 to 175, in the office of the Sub-registrar at Kanakapura, has been lost and is not traceable. Therefore, any person who has found or is in possession of the aforesaid original document is hereby called upon to produce and deliver the same to the undersigned within a period of **15 (fifteen) days** from the date of publication of this notice.

SCHEDULE
(description of the Schedule Property)

All that piece and parcel of immovable agricultural land bearing Survey No.199/1 measuring 01 Acre 04 Guntas, including 04 Guntas of "A" Kharab, situated at Dunturu Village, Satanuru Hobli, Kanakpura Taluk, Ramanagara District and bounded as follows:

East by : - Property bearing Survey No.199/2;
West by : - Property bearing Survey No.200 and 201;
North by : - Property bearing Survey No.198;
South by : - Property bearing Survey No.15.

Sriraksha Vajapeyam,
M/s Agraa Legal, 3 rd Floor, Shravanee Krishna Mansion,Ashoka Pillar Road, Jayanagar 2nd Block,Bengaluru 560011
Ph: (080) 2962001/02
Email: admin@agraalegal.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients **Mr. YALLA VENKATA SUBBA RAO,** Aged about 47 Years, S/o. Mr. Yalla Venkateshwarlu, Residing at: Villa 3, Mulberry Meadows, Opposite to Hollywood Town, Sadahalli, Navaratra Agrahara, Bangalore-562110, and **Mrs. MADHAVI BATTINI,** Aged about 54 Years, W/o. Mr. Suresh Battini, Residing at 213 Sapphire Building, Amrutha Hills, Panjagutta, Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh-500082, have intend to purchase the schedule property from its owners **Mrs. BHARATHI,** Aged about 27 Years, W/o. Mr. Prabhakar, and **Mrs. R. SUMITHRA,** Aged about 42 Years, W/o. Mr. Satesh Kumar .C, both are Residing at: Near Jain Temple, Vijayapura Cross, Ward No. 11, Devanahalli Town, Bangalore Rural District, in respect of the schedule property which is more fully described in the schedule given below. If any persons claiming or objections or rights with regard to the Schedule Property they are required to send the same with documentary evidence **within Seven (7) days** from the date of this Public Notice hereof my clients shall be at liberty to proceed with the registration of the sale deed if there is no any claims or objection in the regard to the Schedule Property within the stipulated time.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the Agriculture Land bearing **Survey No. 77/2, Measuring 0 Acre 05 Guntas of Land,** and **Survey No. 77/3 Measuring 0 Acre 35 Guntas of Land,** both survey numbers are adjoined in total measuring 1 Acre, Situated at Anneshwara Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District together with all appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on: **East by:** Property belongs to A.N. Nanjunda Gowda & A.N. Nandish; Survey No.77, West by: Survey No.76; North by: Government Karab, South by: Survey No.75.

T. RAMESH KUMAR / MANJULA RAMESH, Advocates
No.1, Alisa Arcade, Near Vijaya Bank, Old Madras Road, K.R.Puram, Bengaluru-560036. Ph. No. 9845601026

Place: Bangalore **Dated: 15-01-2026**

Govt. of Karnataka

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
CHAMARAJANAGARA DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGARA
Phone/Fax : 08226-222027 e-mail : eecnr@kpwd.gov.in / pwdeechngr@gmail.com

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only)
(Two Cover System : Section-1-Technical Bid and Section-2-Financial Bid)
Short Term Tender Notification No 28/2025-26 Dated : 09-01-2026

Item rate tenders are invited through Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal only on behalf of Governor of Karnataka from Eligible registered civil Contractor in KPWD in Standard Bid document **KW-4,** form The Total no of works is 10, **H/A : 4059-80-051-0-60-132 CM Infrastructure Development Projects-Capital Expenditures Works** Minimum estimated cost is Rs. 150.00 lakhs, maximum estimated cost is Rs. 200.00 lakhs, Further changes in this Notification will be published in Kppp.karnataka.gov.in Only. Date of events as follows:

1	Date and Time for downloading the tender document from the Kppp.karnataka.gov.in portal	From 13-01-2026 to 27-01-2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
2	Pre-Bid Meeting Date	16-01-2026 in Division Office Meeting Hall at 11.00 AM
3	Downloading the tender document from the Last Date and Time	27-01-2026 upto 16.00 Hrs.
4	Date & Time for opening of Technical bid	28-01-2026 after 16.30 Hrs.
5	Date & Time for opening of Financial bid	30-01-2026 Morning 11.00 AM

More information can be had from the web site : **https ://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** & Any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PWD Division, Chamarajanagar.

No. : DIPR : CHANAGAR:634:2025-26

ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ

ಮಹಾತ್ಮ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣ, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560022. ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 080-23472850/23371695
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: apmcbangalore22@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕೃಮಾಇ/ಕೃಉಮಾಸ/ಬೆಂ/ಲೈ.ಎ/4598/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 12-01-2026

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇವರಿಂದ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಲೈಸೆನ್ಸ್ ಪಡೆದ ಪೇಟೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರುಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ನೀವು ಕಳೆದ 05 ವರ್ಷಗಳಿಂದ ಅಂದರೆ, 2020-21 ರಿಂದ 2024-25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನವರೆಗೆ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ವಹಿವಾಟು ನಡೆಸದೇ ಇರುವುದು ಕಂಡು ಬಂದಿದ್ದು, ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ನಿಮಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ 02 ಬಾರಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅಂಚೆ ಮೂಲಕ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿಳಾಸ ಪತ್ತೆಯಾಗದೇ ನೋಟೀಸ್‌ಗಳು ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿರುತ್ತವೆ ಹಾಗೂ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಿದ ಪೇಟೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರಿಂದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಲಿಖಿತ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ / ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿ ಬರದ ಕಾರಣ ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 31-10-2023 ರಂದು ರಾಜ್ಯ ಮಟ್ಟದ ಪ್ರಜಾವಾಣಿ ಮತ್ತು ವಿಜಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ದಿನಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಇದುವರೆವಿಗೂ ತಮ್ಮಿಂದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಲಿಖಿತ ಹೇಳಿಕೆ / ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿಯಾಗಲೀ ಅಥವಾ ನೋಟೀಸಿಗನುಗುಣವಾಗಿ ಲೈಸೆನ್ಸ್ ಪಡೆದ ಸ್ಥಳಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವ್ಯಾಪಾರ ವಹಿವಾಟು ನಡೆಸಿರುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಆದಾಗ್ಯೂ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07-01-2026 ಮತ್ತು 08-01-2026 ಗಳಂದು ಮತ್ತೊಮ್ಮೆ ಅವಕಾಶ ನೀಡುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ನೋಟೀಸ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದರೂ ಸಹ ತಮ್ಮಿಂದ ಯಾವುದೇ ಲಿಖಿತ ಹೇಳಿಕೆಯಾಗಲೀ / ಮಾಹಿತಿಯಾಗಲೀ ಸಮಿತಿಗೆ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದುದರಿಂದ, ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಮತ್ತು ದಾಸನಪುರ ಉಪ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಪ್ರಾಂಗಣದ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪೇಟೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರಚುರ ಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸೂಚನಾ ಫಲಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪರಿಶೀಲಿಸಿಕೊಂಡು ಈ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯು ಪತ್ರಿಕೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಕಟಗೊಂಡ 05 ದಿನದೊಳಗಾಗಿ ನಿಮ್ಮ ಸಮಜಾಯಿಷಿ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಪೂರಕ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ ಲಿಖಿತ ವಿವರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಸಮಿತಿಯ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸತಕ್ಕದ್ದು. ನಿಗದಿತ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೀಕೃತವಾಗದ ಮನವಿ / ವಿವರಣೆಯನ್ನು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಈ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನೇ ಅಂತಿಮ ನೋಟೀಸ್ ಎಂದು ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಿ ನೀವು ಹೊಂದಿರುವ ಲೈಸೆನ್ಸ್‌ನ್ನು ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿ
ಕೃಉಮಾಸ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

ಇವರಿಗೆ: ಉಪ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಕೃಷಿ ಮಾರಾಟ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಮತ್ತು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಹಾಗೂ ಕೃಷಿ ಉತ್ಪನ್ನ ಮಾರುಕಟ್ಟೆ ಸಮಿತಿ, ಯಶವಂತಪುರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಇಲ್ಲಿ 10 ವರ್ಷಗಳ ಅವಧಿಗೆ ಲೈಸೆನ್ಸ್ ಪಡೆದಿರುವ ಪೇಟೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕರ್ತರುಗಳಿಗೆ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/5026/ಅಡ್ವರ್ಟೋರ್/2025-26

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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, ROHIT Deshkar, s/o; Ashok Deshkar, r/o: 505 B, 5th floor, Knightsbridge Apt, ITPL Main Road, Kundalahalli, BLR-560037. Have changed my name as Rohit Ashok Deshkar.

I, SURAMPUDI Hemantha Kumari, w/o; Surampudi Satish Chandra, r/o: Flat.116 SY 28/2 Green Apple Apts, ST Anthony Road, Mariyannapalya, Blr – 560024. Have changed my name as Hemantha Kumari Kota.

I, PAVITRA Radhakrishna Kuthyar, w/o; Srihari Munirathnam, r/o: 33/14, 1st Floor, Xavier Layout, Victoria Road, Vivek Nagar, Blr-560047. Have changed my name as Pavitra Radhakrishna.

I, JANKI Devi dependent of Bhartendu Vimal, R/at: SMQ 9/5, Air Force Station, Yelahanka, Bangalore-560063 have changed by name from Janki Devi to Dayawanti Devi vide affidavit dated 13/01/2026 sworn before Notary S.R. Ravikumar, Bengaluru

I, AZHER Sharieff, S/o Akbar Sharieff, residing at No.4/1, 2nd Cross, 2nd Main, Gowthamapuram, Ulsoor, Bangalore 560008 have changed my name to Azhar Sharieff vide affidavit dtd 10.01.2026 sworn before Notary Sivakumara M.N., Bluru.

REAL ESTATE

HILLTOP FARM For Sale In Wayanad. Cont:7338630606

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Uday Krishna Kanthabilu S/O, S K Mahabaleshwara Bhat R/o No 26, Saiprabha, 2nd Main Banagirinagar, Banashankari III Stage, Bengaluru-560085 have changed my name to Udaya Krishna Kanthabailu for all purposes.

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TENDERS

e-TENDER NOTICE

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The State Farming Corporation of Kerala Ltd.
Punalur, Kollam
Ph: 0475-2222251/52, 9188292251

PUBLIC NOTICE

We are undertaking an investigation of the title in relation to certain immovable properties more fully described in the '**Schedule**' hereto and hereinafter collectively referred to as '**Schedule Properties**'. The said title due diligence is being conducted for and on behalf of our Client who is desirous of acquiring the Schedule Properties. The persons detailed in the table herein below ('**Owners**') have represented to our Client that they own the lands comprised in the Schedule Properties in the manner detailed therein and that they have unrestricted rights of alienation over the same.

Notice is hereby given to the general public that any person/s other than the Owners, asserting any right, title, charge, lien, claim/s or any interest whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties are hereby called upon to submit to the undersigned, their claim/s, if any, over the Schedule Properties or submit their objections, if any, to the aforementioned transaction. The said claim/s or objections must be in writing, together with documentary proof to support such claim/s or objections and must be delivered to us at the address given below within a period of **10 (ten) days** from the date of publication of this Notice. If no such claim/s or objections are received, it shall be deemed that no one else other than the Owners have any right, title, interest or claim whatsoever in respect of the Schedule Properties and our Client would be at liberty to proceed with the said transaction in connection with the Schedule Properties.

SCHEDULE
(Description of the Schedule Properties)

All that piece and parcel of immovable properties bearing **Survey Nos. 49/2, 50/2, 51/2 and 52/2,** all situated at **Chikkaralagere Village, Sulibele Hobli, Hosakote Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District,** detailed in the table hereinbelow:

Sl No.	Survey Number	Extent	Boundaries: East by	West by	North by	South by	Present Owner
1.	Survey No. 49/2	11 Guntas	Land bearing Survey No. 50/1	Land bearing Survey No. 49/1	Land bearing Survey No. 48/1	Land bearing Survey No. 52/2	Mr. Syed Nawaz
2.	Survey No. 50/2	19 Guntas	Survey No. 48/4 and 48/1 (Thammarasanahalli Village)	Land bearing Survey No. 50/1	Land bearing Survey No. 48/1	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 51/1 and 51/2	I) Mrs. Nazima Begum (ii) Mr. Akmal Baig (iii) Mr. Afzal Baig
3.	Survey No. 51/2	8 ½ Guntas	Survey Nos. 48/4 and 31 (Thammarasanahalli Village)	Land bearing Survey No. 51/1	Land bearing Survey No. 50/2	Land bearing Survey No.51/3	
4.	Survey No. 52/2	13 Guntas	Land bearing Survey Nos. 51/1 and 51/3	Land bearing Survey No. 52/1	Lands bearing Survey Nos. 49/1 and 49/2	Land bearing Survey No. 52/1	Mrs. Najma Kouser
	Total Extent	01 Acre 11 ½ Guntas					

Sd/-
Mr. SRINIVAS B.R., Partner ,
DSK Legal,
Prestige Loka, No. 201, 2nd Floor, No. 7/1 & 7/7,
Brunton Road, Bengaluru – 560025, Tel: 080-69548770

Date : 15.01.2026
Place : Bengaluru

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE

MASTER CONTROL FACILITY, Construction & Maintenance Group,
PB#66, Hassan-573201, India. Telephone: 08172-273520

BRIEF NOTICE INVITING TENDER

On behalf of the President of India, online item-rate tenders are invited through e-tendering mode for the following works:

Name of work	Term contract for structural repair work and External painting work along with water-proofing work of Over Head Water Tank at MCF Hassan.	Painting of office premises, re-allotted Quarters at Anthariksha Nagar & CISF Quarters at MCF Hassan for period of two year.	Raising of peripheral compound wall at Antarikshanagar Campus MCF Hassan - Phase III.
NIT No.	MCF/CMD/H/eTN-26/2025-26/1-1300 Dated. 14.01.2026	MCF/CMD/H/eTN-27/2025-26/1-1325 Dated. 14.01.2026	MCF/CMD/H/eTN-28/2025-26/1-1343 Dated. 14.01.2026
Estimated Cost	Rs. 48,38,018/-	Rs. 22,53,874/-	Rs.20,46,727/-
EMD	Rs. 96,760/-	Rs. 45,077/-	Rs. 40,935/-
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 14.01.2026 10:00 Hrs To 27.01.2026 17:30 Hrs.**		
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**30.01.2026, 17:30 Hrs**		
Due date and time for opening of tenders	**On 02.02.2026 11:30 Hrs onwards (Technical Bid)**		

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from **website: www.isro.gov.in & www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** The bid forms and other details can be downloaded from the **website: www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** All Corrigendums, addendums, clarifications etc. will be uploaded in the tenderwizard portal only and will not be published in newspapers. Bidders may regularly visit the website for any updates.

Sd/- Head, CMD

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DSPL-477

Cong. leader booked for threatening and abusing Municipal Commissioner

The incident occurred over a flex and banner that were removed for violating norms

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress leader B.V. Rajeev Gowda from Shidlaghatta in Chickballapur district allegedly threatened the Municipal Commissioner of the town of setting fire to her office and getting her beaten up, and used abusive language, over a flex and banner that was removed for violating norms.

The audio recording of the phone call Mr. Gowda made to the Municipal Commissioner Amrutha Gowda was leaked in the media. Opposition leaders H. D. Kumaraswamy and R. Ashok, among others, criticised the government.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and Chikkaballapur district in-charge minister Dr. M. C. Sudhakar condemned the incident and said law will take its own course.

Municipal Commissioner Amrutha Gowda breaks down while speaking to the media on Wednesday.

Booked

Hours later, on Wednesday evening, based on a complaint from the Municipal Commissioner, police have now booked Rajeev Gowda, who was Congress's candidate from Shidlaghatta in the 2023 assembly polls, but lost. The incident reportedly happened on Tuesday evening, when an event was held to promote Kannada film *Cult*, starring Zaid Khan, son of Housing Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan. Flexes and banners were put up across the town for the event, including at Kote Circle, which was removed by the CMC, following complaints by the public.

Mr. Gowda reportedly called the Municipal Commissioner, and even as she was trying to tell him that the flex had caused an accident and that there were complaints and so it was removed, Mr. Gowda is heard abusing her and threatening her. "I will get people to your office, so that you run away. There will be riots in all 31 wards," the man is heard saying on the call.

Protest held

Shidlaghatta CMC employees held a protest demanding action against Mr. Gowda on Wednesday, even as Amrutha Gowda broke down speaking to media persons. "I was a software engineer and my husband lives abroad. But I left a good package and became a KAS officer to serve people. In my five years of service, nobody has spoken to me like this," she said.

However, Mr. Gowda, speaking to media persons, denied using abusive words and said he was upset with civic problems in the 31 wards of the town.

Union Minister H. D. Kumaraswamy said he spoke to Chief Secretary Shalini Rajneesh and demanded that the lady officer should be protected. "Under this government, small issues like flex and banners are blowing up and turning into law and order issues," he said. BJP has demanded the arrest of Mr. Gowda and leader of opposition in the assembly R. Ashok demanded suo motu action by the Karnataka State Women's Commission.

The Deputy Chief Minister D.K Shivakumar said that no one was above the law. "Law will take its own course," he said.

Techie among two arrested for trying to sell antique idols

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jigani Police on Wednesday have arrested a 49-year-old software consultant and his associate - a realtor - for allegedly trying to trade antique ivory idols in the city.

Based on a tip-off from a member of CARE, a city based Non-Governmental Organisation, the police caught the accused, identified as Narendra Kumar Sharma and his associate Shabbir Ahmed, charging them under various sections of Wildlife Protection Act.

Probe revealed that Sharma approached a couple - senior citizens from Gujarat, and convinced them to sell the antique idols they had for a good price.

The couple claimed that the idols are part of their ancestral property, but agreed and handed over the antique idols to Narendra Kumar Sharma, who along with Shabbir Ahmed started looking for prospective clients to sell the idols hoping to get a commission.

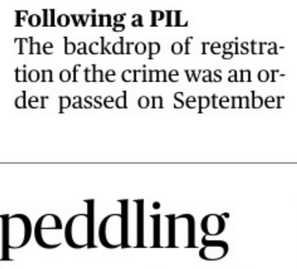
The police have remanded the duo to judicial custody and further investigations are on.

HC stays probe against Sri Sri Ravi Shankar in 'land encroachment case'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has stayed the investigation against Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of Art of Living Foundation, Bengaluru, based on a First Information Report (FIR) registered suo-motu by the Bengaluru Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF) in September 2025 on allegations of encroachment of certain government lands against him and others.

"A perusal of the complaint would *prima facie* indicate no allegations against this petitioner. Without any allegations, the petitioner cannot be drawn into the web of crime, unless the State Public Prosecutor would place on record something to indicate that the petitioner is directly involved in certain acts," the court said in its interim order, which will be in force till January 21, the next date of hearing on the petition.



Founder of the Art of Living Foundation Sri Sri Ravi Shankar

Interim order

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the interim order on January 13 on the petition filed by Mr. Ravi Shankar.

The Court stayed the probe as the BMTF could not produce documents to show that the allegation made in the FIR that he has encroached government land at survey numbers 160, 164/1, 164/2, 150 and 137, situated at Kaggalipura Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, even after the court on January 7 had given time till January 13 to produce records.

It has been contended in the petition that Mr. Ravi Shankar neither owns any property nor is in illegal occupation of any government lands on these survey numbers.

Following a PIL

The backdrop of registration of the crime was an order passed on September 9, 2025, by a division bench of the Court while disposing of in a PIL petition, filed in 2023 by Chandrashekhar N. and others, who had alleging encroachment of government lands and lakes in these survey numbers by the petitioner and others, including a real estate firm.

As the report submitted by the government before the division bench indicated construction of apartments allegedly encroaching certain government lands and a lake, the bench had asked the authorities to take appropriate steps as per the law.

The State Public Prosecutor said that the name of the petitioner did spring as a respondent in the PIL petition, pursuant to which, the present FIR was registered and hence no fault can be found with the BMTF in registering the crime as they have not committed any procedural aberration.

However, the petitioner pointed out to the court that the BMTF had arraigned him as an accused in the FIR even though his name was not there in the report of encroachments submitted before the division bench in the PIL petition.

Lokayukta registers case over large-scale government land scam in Nagamangala taluk

Imran Gowhar
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Lokayukta Police have registered a criminal case alleging large-scale manipulation of government land records and illegal grant of public land in Nagamangala taluk, Mandya district, causing an estimated loss of around ₹200 crore to the State exchequer.

The accused include serving and former government officials and private individuals. A criminal case has been registered against 11 persons in connection with the scam, and five government officials have been arrested.

Based on public complaints, Lokayukta Justice B. Veerappa, on January 12, took suo motu cognisance and registered a complaint . Acting on the directions, the Lokayukta Police conducted search operations between January 13 and 14, starting at 4.30 am, across seven locations in Mandya, Mysuru, Chamarajanagar and Maddur.

Allegations

The accused allegedly fabricated and tampered with official land records, including forged grant orders, false notices and government approvals, manipulated RTCs and survey documents. The documents were allegedly used to illegally grant government gomala and revenue lands by showing new beneficiaries in place of original owners, thereby enabling unlawful gain.

Seizures

During searches at residences, offices and vehicles, Lokayukta Police seized original and fake land records, forged saguvali chits, government notices and grant files and multiple fabricated approvals related to land grants.

A search of the house and car of Village Assistant Yogesh allegedly led to the recovery of original revenue records and several forged documents linked to Nagamangala taluk.

Investigations revealed manipulation across villages including Devalapura, Bellur, Chikkadalakoppalu, Doddagadalakoppalu, Malleshandra, Dondemadahalli, Kachenahalli, Hanchipura and Guddebhovanahalli.

Around 320 acres of government land, valued at approximately ₹200 crore, was allegedly illegally granted using forged documents. In several cases, individuals were granted land far in excess of the permissible limit of 4 acres 38 guntas per family.

Nigerian national among 2 held for peddling drugs; narcotic substances worth ₹1 cr. seized

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Central Crime Branch (CCB) of the Bengaluru police has arrested two persons, including a foreign national, for allegedly peddling narcotic substances, and seized drugs worth around ₹1 crore.

The arrested have been identified as Uche Ndudi, 25, a Nigerian national, and Akash, a resident of Begur in Bengaluru.

According to the police, acting on specific information that a foreign national residing within the limits of K.R. Puram police station was involved in drug peddling, the CCB conducted an operation and arrested Ndudi. From his possession, police allegedly seized cocaine worth approximately ₹50.6 lakh, along with a mobile phone and a two-wheeler used for transporting the drugs.

In a separate operation, based on information that a person residing in AECS Layout, under the jurisdiction of Begur police station, was supplying the banned narcotic substance hydro ganja to acquaintances, the CCB conducted a search and arrested Akash. Police recovered hydro ganja worth about ₹48 lakh from Akash, along with other materials used for drug distribution, the CCB said.

Further investigation is underway to ascertain the source of the drugs and identify possible links to a wider drug network.

Two labourers arrested for selling ganja

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vivek Nagar Police on Wednesday arrested a 35-year-old construction labourer and his associate, a carpenter, for allegedly selling ganja on footpath.

Police seized 21 kg and 210 gm of ganja, valued at ₹21 lakh, and two mobile phones from the accused.

The arrested have been identified as Sanjit Bagh, 35, and Mithun Kambar, 25, both natives of Odisha.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh said the arrests were made following credible information. The accused were selling ganja to customers on the footpath on the Viveknagar-Vannarpet road. Acting on a tip-off, the Viveknagar police conducted a search and allegedly caught the duo red-handed while they were attempting to sell drugs.

During interrogation, the accused reportedly revealed that they procured ganja at a lower price from an unidentified person in Odisha and transported it to Bengaluru to sell at a higher price to customers.

Further investigation is under way to trace other persons involved in the case. The operation was carried out after the Viveknagar Police grilled the consumers in and around the area to ascertain the source of the ganja they get, before zeroing in on the duo.

State govt. to extend financial protection to GBS patients

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government will extend financial protection to patients suffering from Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), a rare neurological condition that often requires expensive treatment, Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said on Wednesday.

GBS patients typically require Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) therapy, considered the most critical but among the costliest components of treatment. The therapy has now been brought under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AB-PMJAY-CM's ArK) scheme through a circular issued by the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST).

Under the revised package, the scheme will now cover up to ₹2 lakh per patient for IVIG therapy. The price of the drug has been fixed at ₹2,000 per gram, with dosage to be calculated based on patient weight (at two grams per kg body weight with maximum of 20 grams per cycle). Two specific procedure codes have been created for this purpose to enable billing and auditing.

To ensure transparency and prevent misuse, the government has made it mandatory for hospitals to upload details of each treatment session, including photographs of the IVIG vials, batch numbers, patient identifiers, and a dosage sheet certified by the treating physician. The benefit will be available across all government hospitals and empanelled private hospitals in the State.

"Our government is committed to ensuring quality healthcare for all. Covering this expensive therapy will provide support to thousands of patients who would otherwise struggle to afford it," Mr. Gundu Rao said.

Lalbagh-style parks in North and South B'luru, says Shivakumar

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has decided to develop Lalbagh style parks in Bengaluru North and Bengaluru South, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar said on Wednesday.

Addressing media after inaugurating the annual flower show at Lalbagh, Mr. Shivakumar said the projects regarding parks had already received Cabinet approval.

He added that the Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA) has assured financial assistance for two parks, and officials have been directed to seek feedback from residents living around the proposed sites before taking up development works.

The vibrant floral installations at the 219th Lalbagh Flower Show, themed 'Tejaswi Vismaya,' celebrating Kannada writer K. P. Poornachandra Tejaswi, at the Glass House , in Bengaluru on Wednesday.
K MURALI KUMAR

The Deputy Chief Minister said Lalbagh remains a key asset for the State. He noted that Karnataka exports nearly 17 aircraft-loads of flowers and vegetables every week and said the government is planning to establish an international flower and vegetable market in the city.

Responding to concerns over the proposed tunnel road project, Mr. Shivakumar said there was no threat to Lalbagh. "There is no problem for Lalbagh due to the tunnel road. We are more concerned about Lalbagh than anyone else," he said, adding that tunnel roads are necessary given the rapid growth in the city's population.

Sankranti shopping

Last-minute rush: People throng K.R. Market to buy sugarcane, flowers, fruits, vegetables and other items on the eve of Sankranti festival in Bengaluru on Wednesday.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Paper leak: PU board warns of action ahead of 2nd preparatory exam

The Dept. has said that legal action will be taken against students if they are involved, and if the question papers are leaked from the nodal centre, the principal will be booked

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education (Pre-university), in response to the question paper leak incidents during the recently concluded II PUC Preparatory Exam-1, has taken steps to conduct the Preparatory Exam-2 strictly. The exams will begin on January 19.

In a circular issued in this regard, the director of the department has warned that if the question papers are leaked from the nodal centre, an FIR will be registered against the principal of the nodal centre and legal action will be taken in addition to disciplinary action under the Karnataka Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Act 1957.

The department has warned that if the students circulate the question papers on WhatsApp, YouTube, Instagram, or any other social media, legal action will be taken against them as well.

The II PU and SSLC preparatory exam papers were leaked on social media in Shivamogga, Tumakuru, and Kalaburagi. FILE PHOTO

This time, the State government has taken steps to conduct two preparatory examinations for II PU and three preparatory exams for SSLC, and the preparatory exam-1 was held from January 5. The II PU and SSLC preparatory examination papers were leaked on social media in Shivamogga, Tumakuru and Kalaburagi .

"If the aided colleges do not maintain confidentiality or if they cause the question papers to be leaked, a recommendation will be made to the government to withdraw the college's grant as per the rules. If the unaided/affiliated colleges do not maintain confidentiality or if they cause the question papers to be leaked, the college's recognition will be permanently cancelled as per the rules," stated the circular.

The Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has been asked to recommend that the said examination centre be cancelled in case confidentiality is not maintained or there is a paper leak.

"The Deputy Director of Pre-Universities (DDPU) of the districts concerned should identify the printing house in their district. No private printing activities should be carried out after the printing of the question paper has started. After the printing work is completed, the soft copy of the question papers should be deleted and the extra printed question papers should be destroyed. A certificate should be issued jointly by the DDPU and the printer in this regard," reads the circular.

"Under the supervision of the DDPU, the printing, packing and sealing of the question papers having the watermark of the Nodal Centre shall be carried out in the designated printing house using a non-tamperable seal. Downloading the question papers on a single computer under the same IP address is mandatory. If it is found that the download has been made on more than one IP address, legal action will be taken against the DDPU concerned," it further stated.

Admissions to Physiotherapy UG course through NEET

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka State Allied and Healthcare Council (KSAHC) has ordered that the admission to Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Undergraduate Programmes will be conducted through the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) from the academic year of 2026-27.

Following the order of Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and National Commission for Allied Healthcare Professions (NCAHP), the KSAHC has issued directions to all public, private state and deemed to be universities to admit students based on NEET rank.

"The category-wise degree nomenclature and admission criteria for Allied and Healthcare programmes have been notified and communicated to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for adoption with effect from the academic year 2026-27," stated the circular.

It has been clearly notified that admissions to the Bachelor of Physiotherapy (B.PT) category 1, Bachelor of Occupational Therapy (B.OT) category 6 should be done through NEET. "Ensure wide dissemination of this information among affiliated colleges, faculty and students," it stated.

Man riding motorcycle dies as manja slits his throat in Bidar

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

A 48-year-old man was killed after a kite string (manja) slit his throat while he was riding a motorcycle at Talmadgi village in Chitaguppa taluk of Bidar district on Wednesday. Chinese manja (glass-coated string) for kite flying is banned but it continues to be used.

The deceased has been identified as Sanjukumar Gundappa Hosamani. He is survived by wife, a son and three daughters.

According to the police and eyewitnesses, the incident occurred near a bridge at Talmadgi when Hosamani was riding his motorcycle to Humnabad town to bring back his daughter who studies at a residential school for the Sankranti holiday.

Deep cut

The manja got entangled around his neck, causing a deep cut that led to profuse bleeding. He reportedly fell off the bike and collapsed on the spot, succumbing to the injuries before help could arrive. Eyewitnesses said that the sharp kite string caused severe bleeding, leaving him no chance of survival.

From Page One

12 arrested in mule account scam

Acting on this information, the police on December 3, 2025, conducted a search at their residence in Anjanapura and seized several items.

On December 9, 2025, the two accused were again produced before the court, where one was remanded in police custody for another 10 days while the other was sent to judicial custody.

Based on further leads, on December 17, 2025, Hulimavu police apprehended 10 accomplices from an office operating out of a residential premises in Rajendra Nagar, Delhi. From their possession, the police seized 36 debit cards, 35 mobile phones, 10 cheque books, six laptops and 12 SIM cards. After producing them before a court in Delhi, the accused were brought to Bengaluru on December 18.

All the accused were subsequently produced before the court in Bengaluru and remanded in judicial custody after completion of police custody between December 31, 2025 and January 6, 2026.

Meanwhile, City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh announced a cash reward of ₹50,000 for the Hulimavu police team for successfully cracking the case. He said the police are now tracking the prime accused, who is allegedly operating the racket from Dubai.

According to the police, the kingpin's close confidant, Mohammed Huzaif, 23, a PU dropout, has been running the operation for the past two years. Investigators said he possessed more than two dozen mobile phones, including a satellite phone.

Police officials said that with the arrests made so far, transactions worth ₹24 crore have been detected, while the total fraud committed by the syndicate is estimated to be around ₹240 crore. The accused had allegedly purchased expensive gold and diamond jewellery for his mother and fiancée, all of which have been seized.

The operation was carried out under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner of Police, Electronic City Division, M. Narayana, and the supervision of Assistant Commissioner of Police, Electronic City Sub-Division, K.M. Satish.

Celebrating women mathematicians from around the world

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An exhibition that has travelled 170 countries, titled "Women of Mathematics From Around the World", is now showing at the Science Gallery Bengaluru, bringing to viewers photographic portraits of 20 global woman mathematicians - from Ukraine to India - and their personal perspectives on this subject that has scant female representation.

Earlier this month, a panel, comprising the American/German photographer Noel Tovia Matoff, French mathematician, curator Sylvie Paycha, and physicist Sumati Surya reflected on how mathematics is produced "by people" rather than "abstractions".

The exclusive group of mathematicians chosen for the 20-portrait exhibition includes Neela Nataraj, the institute chair professor at the department of mathematics, IIT Bombay, who is now working on mathematical problems related to liquid crystals.

Visitors at the Science Gallery in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Jahnavi Phalkey, founding director of SGC, in a release, hoped the exhibition "will encourage young men to recognise women mathematicians as part of the intellectual landscape and for young women to fearlessly think of mathematics as their own, just as the women portrayed in the exhibition have been able to".

Ms. Matoff said of his decade-long project of portraying women mathematicians worldwide, "even after 37 such sessions, I am still inspired by the passion with which women mathematicians explain, describe, and paint their theories on the blackboard". Paycha said that women, worldwide, researching mathematics and theoretical physics "are still scarce".

The purpose of the exhibition was "to make visible women of mathematics and theoretical physics from around the world and to encourage young women to embrace a career in mathematics and/or theoretical physics".

The portraits are presented in collaboration with the Consulate General of Germany, the International Centre for Theoretical Sciences, and the Raman Research Institute.

T.L. Raghavan's book launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Nonagenarian author T.L. Raghavan, recipient of the Karnataka Shri for reviving poet Ranna, unveiled his fourteenth book, *My House Is My Castle* on Saturday at the Bangalore Room, Indiranagar.

Raghavan presented a monograph featuring eminent figures, underscoring the role of memories in sustaining traditions.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JAN. 15	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:12
RISE 03:46	SET 15:13
FRIDAY, JAN. 16	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:13
RISE 04:38	SET 16:04
SATURDAY, JAN. 17	
RISE 06:46	SET 18:13
RISE 05:31	SET 16:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	20
Mysuru	29	17
Bengaluru	30	17

Bengaluru Today
25°C The weather will be pleasant. Night will be cool and hazy. Chances of light rain and thundershower at few places.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be comfortable. Night also will be cool. Dry weather to occur.

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THE HINDU
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TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Chennai-600032

Tender Notice No: T1/TNPCB/F.15722/TNSHORE-FTB/2025 Dated: 14.01.2026

E-tender (2-cover system) through TN etenders' website are invited for "Supply, Installation, Commencement and maintenance of Floating Trash Boom Barrier on the Adyar River, Chennai, Tamil Nadu"

E-tender is called for an agency to "Supply, Install, Commence and maintenance of the Floating Trash Boom Barrier on the Adyar River, Chennai, Tamil Nadu" as per the specified terms and conditions.

The tender documents can be downloaded from **https://tntenders.gov.in** and **www.tnpcb.gov.in** on or after 15.01.2026 The last date for the receipt of the tender is 29.01.2026.

Chairperson
TAMIL NADU POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Chennai - 32

DIPR/279/Tender/2026

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Tender No. ELCOT-ST-IT02-2026-0003

ELCOT invites bids for the engagement of agencies for outdoor advertising and branding in the common area of ELCOT IT parks and IT Towers across Tamil Nadu. Tender **Part I - Manual submission on or before 28.01.2026, 3 pm** at ELCOT Egmore. Tender **Part II - e-bid** shall be submitted **on or before 10.02.2026, 3:00 pm** in e-tender portal https://tntenders.gov.in only. For further details, please visit https://tntenders.gov.in. For queries itparks@elcot.in

DIPR/276/Tender/2026
GENERAL MANAGER

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
SIGNALLING WORK

Tender Notice No SUR-N-T-2025-26-37. Date:-13.01.2026 DRM(S&T)'s Office, Central Railway, Solapur for and on behalf of President of India invites online e-tenders on Railway's e procurement website **www.ireps.gov.in** from the capable, reputed firms /Contractors for the following works :- **Name of work with its locality:** Signalling work in connection with Rebuilding and Extension of Bridges, Strengthening of weak Bridges and Tunnels on Solapur 37 Division of Central Railway. **Approximate cost of the work:** ₹ 1,27,23,245.45/-. **Cost of the tender form:** Nil. **Earnest money to be deposited:** ₹ 2,13,600/-. **Complection period of the work:** 12 Months. **Date & Time of Closing of tender: 04.02.2026** after **15.30** hrs. The details are available in **ireps** website. Corrigendum/amendments if any will be uploaded only on above e-procurement website. Only online tenders will be accepted. Manual/postal/e-mail, FAX, by hand tenders will not be accepted. Bidders are requested to obtain Class III Digital Signature Certificate with company name and register the same with **www.ireps.gov.in.** The Payment of Earnest Money (EMD) will be accepted through net banking or payment gateway or in the form of Bank Guarantee and the original Bank Guarantee should be delivered in person to the official nominated as indicated in the tender document before closing date for submission of bids (i.e. excluding the last date of submission of bids) For further details please visit: **www.ireps.gov.in.**

DRM - S & T Branch
Akar/Sur-6 CR, Solapur

Unauthorized crossing of railway line is a punishable offense

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Joint session of legislature to have special debate on VB-G RAM G

Five Cabinet Ministers to be present in the House during the session beginning January 22 to coordinate govt. strategies

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government has convened a joint session of the State Legislature from January 22, which would feature a special discussion on the repeal of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) that has been replaced by the newly-enacted Viksit Bharat- Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025.

According to Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs H.K. Patil, one of the resolutions of the Cabinet was to create awareness on the social and economic impact on the society that the new legislation could bring. FILE PHOTO

Till January 31

The legislature session, to be held till January 31, will commence with the Governor's address, and the rest of the business will be decided by the Speaker and the Business Advisory Committee, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told pressmen here during the post Cabinet briefing.

"One of the resolutions of the Cabinet was to create awareness on the social and economic impact on the society that the new legislation could bring. The legislature session will have special discussion on the new legislation," he said. Sources said that the government has asked five Cabinet Ministers, including Krishna Byre Gowda, Priyank Kharge, H.K. Patil and Sharan Prakash Patil, to be present in the House during the session and coordinate Government's strategies to attack the BJP and the JD(S) on the VB-G RAM G Act.

Why change in plans

When asked the reason for not having a two-day special session only to discuss VB-G RAM G Act as announced earlier, the Law Minister pointed out at the provisions in the Constitution. "As per Article 176 of the Constitution, the Governor should address the commencement of the legislature session after the election or at the commencement of the year. In view of this technicality, we are holding the joint session instead of a special session," he said.

Asked if the Congress government was using it as a political tool, Mr. Patil said that the government is trying to create awareness about the impact of the new law in the interest of the State and people.

On whether the Congress government in Karnataka was the lone voice against the Bill, he said, "Six to seven States, including Punjab and Tamil Nadu, have expressed their displeasure and opposition to the new law. It is not true that we are the only voice against it."

A ploy to divert attention: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Describing the Cabinet's decision to convene a special legislature session to discuss the VB-G RAM G Act as one with "mala fide intention" that will serve no public good, the Opposition BJP on Wednesday alleged that it was being convened only to divert public attention from the ongoing leadership tussle in the government.

Addressing a press conference here, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok argued that the State government should approach the Centre if it had any issues with the VB-G RAM G Act. Calling a session to merely launch a tirade at the Centre would result in waste of tax payers' money, he said.

Defending the new Act, he claimed that the Congress' allegations of the reduction of Central grants under the scheme were false as the Centre had made it clear that the State would continue to get its earlier grant of ₹17,000 crore under this scheme. However, the Congress government in the State was opposing this only because it did not have money to bear 40% of matching grants and it did not want the scheme to be named after Bharat, he alleged.

Referring to the Congress taking exception to removing the name of Mahatma Gandhi from the scheme, he maintained that the Congress did not have moral right to talk about Gandhiji as it had failed to honour his commitments, including prohibiting cow slaughter and propagating the ideals of Bhagavad Gita.

Issues highlighted

Mr. Ashok has written separate letters to Chief Minister and Speaker of the Assembly seeking special session to debate issues such as alleged threat to the interests of Kannadigas in Kerala by that State's Bhasha Bill, alleged drug mafia and the problem of illegal immigrants.

Rahul only told us to continue good work: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday clarified that there was no message from Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, when they met briefly at Mysuru, and he only asked the State government to "continue the good work."

Mr. Gandhi had met both Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Mr. Shivakumar briefly on his way to Ooty on Tuesday.

'No message'

Mr. Shivakumar, also KPCC president, said, "We have neither given any message to any one nor have we got any message from anyone. Our leaders have told us to continue the good work we are doing. I updated him about the programmes we are doing about the MGNREGA. We also discussed politics within the State BJP."

Asked if he would go to Delhi, he said he would travel to Delhi on January 16.

Dinesh Gundu Rao seeks nod for AIISH-model centre in North Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao has urged the Union government to grant approval for setting up an All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH)-model centre in North Karnataka to address regional disparities in access to specialised services.

Dinesh Gundu Rao

Participating virtually in the 60th Council meeting of AIISH chaired by Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Tuesday, Mr. Rao highlighted the burden on AIISH Mysuru and the difficulties faced by patients travelling from the northern districts.

Mr. Rao urged the Centre to grant in-principle approval for establishing an AIISH-type institution in North Karnataka. The State would provide land and basic infrastructure, while support from the Union government would be required for skilled human resources and technical components, he said.

Short-term courses

Mr. Rao sought approval for introducing three- to six-month short-term training and diploma courses for in-service healthcare staff. These courses could be offered in academic collaboration with AIISH Mysuru through district hospitals and government medical college hospitals, with a focus on screening, early identification, speech and hearing assessment, and Auditory Verbal Therapy (AVT), he said.

The Minister proposed establishing outreach centres through government medical colleges and select district and taluk hospitals to facilitate screening, follow-up and therapeutic services. These centres would be linked to AIISH Mysuru and would also function as training hubs.

He further sought technical support from AIISH to strengthen Karnataka Health Department's cochlear implant programme, suggesting that the initiative be implemented under a 50:50 cost-sharing formula between the Centre and the State.

Through NGOs

Mr. Rao also proposed setting up mother-and-child training centres at the district level with NGO support, in coordination with the Department for the Empowerment of Differently-Abled and Senior Citizens. These centres could offer early intervention, AVT and speech therapy services, parental counselling, and caregiver training using existing State and Central schemes.

Kiwi team explores deeper innovation and skills collaboration with State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A delegation from New Zealand's innovation ecosystem, participating in the Prime Minister's Scholarship for Asia (PMSA) programme, met with Priyank Kharge, Minister for Information Technology and Biotechnology, and officials to explore opportunities for collaboration across technology, education, research, skilling, and emerging sectors.

The delegation from New Zealand with Minister for Information Technology and Biotechnology Priyank Kharge in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Discussions focused on strengthening people-to-people connections and building long-term institutional linkages between Karnataka and New Zealand, said a release.

PMSA is a New Zealand Government-funded initiative administered by Education New Zealand (ENZ), aimed at deepening partnerships across Asia while building global capabilities in innovation, education, and leadership. The visiting delegation comprised representatives from New Zealand's research, technology, education, and innovation ecosystem.

During the meeting, Mr. Kharge highlighted Karnataka's position as India's fourth-largest technology cluster and a leading hub for R&D, innovation, startups, and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

Emphasis was placed on creating skills and market-access corridors that enable startups, researchers, and enterprises from both regions to scale solutions across global markets. The Minister also spoke about Karnataka's "DeepTech Decade" roadmap, outlining opportunities for collaboration across artificial intelligence, aerospace, climate and sensor technologies, agritech, marine biotechnology, and other emerging digital and frontier technology sectors.

Potential collaborations

The Minister suggested that the delegation engage closely with the Department of IT & BT through Karnataka's Global Innovation Alliance (GIA) platform. The New Zealand delegation expressed interest in working with the Department to identify priority areas of collaboration and constitute a joint working group to advance discussions, the release said.

Greens, seers oppose Bedti river linking project in Uttara Kannada

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Several religious leaders and legislators led a protest against the State government's Bedti river linking project at Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district.

Members of the Bedti-Aghanashini Kolla Sanrakshan Samiti organised the meeting on Sunday. They passed a resolution against the project.

Gangadharendra Swami of Sonda Swarnavalli Mutt said destructive schemes were being brought by the government that destroy rivers.

"If the people's representatives of the district do not demonstrate unity in the fight against the river diversion project, the time may come for the people of the district to boycott the elections," he warned.

Madhavananda Bharathi Swami of Srimannelemavu Mutt opposed the river linking project, saying that a river diversion project that could destroy forests could not be allowed.

Bhattakalanka Bhattarak Swami of Jain Mutt said, "We should all realise that only a government that protects nature will be considered a good government."

Brahmananda Swami of Chaitanya Rajarama Ashram, Shiralagi, said the struggle was being fought regardless of caste, creed, or party.

Mahant Swami of Jade Sansthan Math, among others, also spoke.

Water diversion

B.M. Kumaraswamy, environmentalist, said that diverting water from Uttara Kannada to other districts could damage the forests here and also reduce rainfall, which could defeat the whole purpose of diverting surplus water to drier districts of north Karnataka.

"Successive governments at the State and the Centre have been insensitive to our demands. The Union government had gone ahead with the Kaiga nuclear project despite opposition from local residents. Same was the case with the naval base. Now, the Union government is planning its expansion, despite the fact that land losers in the original project have not received proper compensation. But successive governments have failed to fulfil our genuine demands like a super-speciality hospital for the district," Prof. Kumaraswami said.

Vishweshwara Hegde Kageri, MP, said that he had written to the Union government to conduct a study about the carrying capacity of Uttara Kannada district.

Religious leaders and legislators taking part in a rally to oppose the Bedti river project in Sirsi recently. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Hampi Utsav from Feb. 13

The Hindu Bureau
KALABURAGI

The Hampi Utsav 2026 will be celebrated in a grand manner for three days from February 13, Minority Welfare, Housing and Wakf Minister and Vijayanagara district in-charge B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan has said.

Information Commission wants 17 of its newly supplied computers to be replaced

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Information Commission is now in loggerheads with the State-owned Karnataka State Electronic Development Corporation (KEONICS) over supply of computers that have "not matched specifications", and has sought replacement of 17 of them.

The Karnataka Information Commission had sought "all-in-one" computers and desktops, and it is learnt that ₹30.15 lakh was paid for the same.

After the supply, the commission has accused KEONICS of supplying lower quality computers that do not match the specifications prescribed by the Union government.

"As per the order of the Union government, money had been paid for high quality hybrid model VC systems. However, it has been found that 17 computers that do not match the prescribed quality and that do not adhere to the specifications in the work orders have been supplied," the commission has said in a communication addressed to the managing director of KEONICS.

Commission sources said that one of the important specifications to have cameras, which, however, are not in the 17 computers supplied. "The commission hears cases online. Without cameras, how can the cases be heard online? We need replacement of the computers with those that adhere to the specifications," sources said.

Last week, an inspection found that five "all-in-one" computers and 11 desktops were as per supply order, while 17 "all-in-one" computers did not meet the supply order conditions, sources said.

Raghunandan Murthy, MD of KEONICS, said he had not received any communication from the commission. He said the procurement would be based on the specification given by the Information Commission.

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT OFFICER,
MINORITY WELFARE DEPARTMENT KALABURAGI

No:MWD:GLB:ACCT:Tender:CR-01:2025-26 DATE:14.01.2026.

SHORT TERM - TENDER NOTIFICATION

District Minority Welfare Officer, Department of Minority Welfare, Kalaburagi Dist hereby invites Technical & Commercial Bids from officially registered, eligible suppliers, Non-governmental organization who are registered under law, co-operative societies who are registered under society act to Supply food materials & other material taluka wise for all institutions spread over KALABURAGI District as described in the schedule of requirements. 1) Tender Reference No and date: **No:MWD:GLB:ACCT:Tender:CR-01:2025-26 Dated: 14.01.2026**, 2) Amount put to Tender (In lakhs): **3000.00 LAKHS**, 3) EMD Amount (1.5%) (In lakhs): **Rs. 45.00 Lakhs**, 4) Tender opening date and time: **14.01.2026,** 4) Pre Bid Meeting Date, Place and Time: **19.01.2026 @ 11.00 am** DISTRICT MINORITY WELFARE OFFICER , GDA OFFICE 1ST FLOOR STATION ROAD KALABUARGI, 5) Last date & Time for submission of Tender: **28.01.2026 @ 5.30 pm**, 6) Date & Time of opening of Technical bid: **30.01.2026 @ 11.00 am**, 7) Date & Time of opening of Financial Bid: **03.02.2026 @ 11.00 am,** 8) Venue of opening of tenders & address for communication: DISTRICT MINORITY WELFARE OFFICER , GDA OFFICE 1ST FLOOR STATION ROAD KALABUARGI. Email Address: domgulbarga1@gmail.com Contact No: 08472-247260

Interested eligible Registered in e-procurement portal bidders can download the bid documents with visiting the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

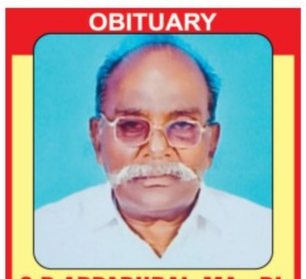
Sd/- District Officer
Minority Welfare Dept, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/978/KSMC&A/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY



S P APPADURAI, MA , BL
Retired Jt. Secretary , Govt of Tamil Nadu
D.O.B: 28/05/1938 D.O.D: 14/01/2026
Deeply Mourned by wife A. Kasimani
Son : A Vijay Anand, Daughter in law - P Vijayalakshmi
Son-in-law : M Edwin Raj, Daughter : A Usha Anandhi
Ct: 9884089321

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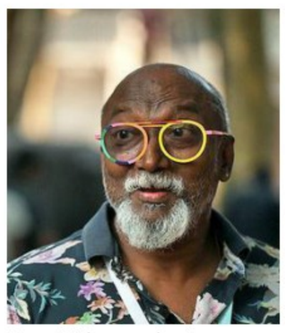

Bose Krishnamachari

Kochi Biennale co-founder resigns

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Artist-curator Bose Krishnamachari has resigned from the Kochi Biennale Foundation (KBF). He was a co-founder and president of the KBF and member of its Board of Trustees.

Mr. Krishnamachari has cited "pressing family reasons" for his resignation, said Venu V., chairperson, KBF, in a statement on Wednesday. Mr. Krishnamachari, in a note, said he decided to step down "after much reflection and discussion over the past few weeks."

"After 15 years of being deeply committed and involved in building the foundation and shaping the biennale, from its inception as an artist-led initiative to what it is today, I felt this was the right moment to step back, for personal and family reasons, and to return more fully to my own artistic practice. The foundation is in a strong place, and future editions are already gaining momentum, which gives me confidence and peace in making this decision," he said.

Supreme Court to hear Jana Nayagan producers today

Bench will hear KVN Productions' challenge against the decision of a two-judge Bench of the Madras High Court to stay a single judge's order to issue U/A 16+ certificate to the film, hours after it was passed

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A still from the movie Jana Nayagan. Photo: Special Arrangement SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A Division Bench of the Supreme Court, headed by Justice Dipankar Datta, will on January 15 hear an appeal filed by the production house of Vijay-starrer *Jana Nayagan* against an order of stay passed by a Division Bench of the Madras High Court over the certification of the film.

The Bench, also comprising Justice Augustine George Masih, would hear KVN Productions' challenge against the decision of a two-judge Bench of the High Court to stay a single judge's order to issue U/A 16+ certificate to the film, hours after it was passed.

The production house has arraigned the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and its Regional Officer as respondents in the case before the Supreme Court.

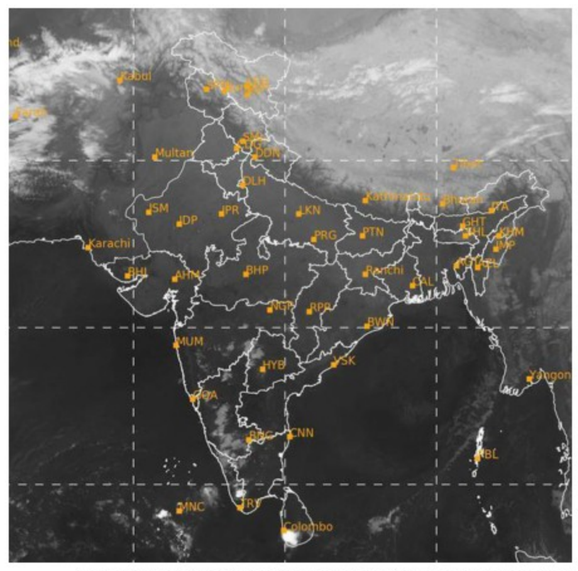
The production firm had initially approached a single judge Bench against a decision of the CBFC chairman to review the CBFC examining committee's decision to clear the film for issuance of a censor certificate.

The CBFC had countered this by saying one of the five members of the examining committee had sent a complaint to the CBFC chairman, stating that his objections were not considered properly before making the recommendation.

It had argued that the Cinematograph (Certification) Rules of 2024 empowered the chairman to refer a movie to the revising committee if he/she does not agree with the recommendation of the examining panel. The Board had argued that judicial review on the merits of issuance of censor certificates was limited.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.15 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Cold wave conditions likely at isolated places over Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha. Dense fog likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim and West Bengal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	28.0	13.2	Kozhikode	0.8	32.4	25.0
Ahmedabad	—	28.8	12.6	Kurnool	—	33.6	20.3
Aizawl	—	26.2	13.8	Lucknow	—	21.5	6.1
Allahabad	—	22.6	6.2	Madurai	.8	31.9	20.3
Bengaluru	—	29.7	17.4	Mangaluru	—	32.0	23.2
Bhopal	—	26.8	9.8	Mumbai	—	32.3	21.0
Bhubaneswar	—	28.2	12.1	Mysuru	—	29.2	17.4
Chandigarh	—	8.9	3.8	New Delhi	—	20.0	3.8
Chennai	—	30.1	22.0	Patna	—	21.6	10.9
Coimbatore	—	31.4	20.2	Port Blair	—	29.1	21.1
Dehradun	—	21.5	5.3	Puducherry	—	31.1	21.0
Gangtok	—	16.8	6.8	Pune	—	33.6	19.4
Goa	—	32.4	23.2	Raipur	—	28.2	13.4
Guwahati	—	26.6	12.2	Ranchi	—	22.2	8.0
Hubballi	—	31.0	19.0	Shillong	—	16.6	5.5
Hyderabad	—	31.2	18.1	Shimla	—	16.0	3.0
Imphal	—	24.4	11.1	Srinagar	—	13.3	-5.2
Jaipur	—	23.8	10.4	Thiruvananthapuram	.1	33.8	23.4
Kochi	—	31.4	24.8	Tiruchi	0.6	30.1	21.0
Kohima	—	16.6	6.0	Vijayawada	—	30.5	19.5
Kolkata	—	24.2	13.5	Visakhapatnam	—	27.7	18.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.71	103	.36	...143	...126	
Bengaluru	...5	..18	.37	...139	...152	
Chennai	...9	..11	.13	...192	...197	
Delhi	.40	..82	.91	...373	...419	
Hyderabad	...8	..40	.38	...128	...118	
Kolkata	...8	112	.67	...235	...160	
Lucknow	...6	..46	.70	...161	...327	
Mumbai	.22	..59	.26	...142	...120	
Pune	..—	..73	117	...211	...179	
Visakhapatnam	...9	100	.29	...192	...190	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 357 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Gangtok, Sikkim recorded a healthy AQI score of 28

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

3 journalists detained over controversial programme

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Three journalists associated with the Telugu news channel NTV were detained by the Telangana police late on Tuesday in connection with a controversial programme aired by the channel that involved a woman IAS officer and a Telangana Minister. Officials, however, have not formally confirmed their arrest as of Wednesday evening.

The police action comes days after the Telangana government ordered a probe into the telecast. Five days after the programme went on air, a Special Investigation Team was constituted under the leadership of V. C. Sajjanar, Hyderabad Police Commissioner, to investigate the matter.

The late-night detentions triggered sharp political reactions and the Congress government was accused of targeting the media. Bharat Rashtra Samithi working president K. T. Rama Rao criticised the police action. "I strongly condemn the arrest of three journalists on a festival day. The Congress rule in Telangana is reminiscent of the Emergency days," he said.

Congress rule in Telangana is reminiscent of the Emergency days, says BRS leader

The former Minister demanded their immediate release, saying, "None of the sections are non-bailable. So why did the Telangana police decide to terrorise the journalists and their families with these midnight arrests?"

"I request Telangana DGP to follow the due legal process and not play into dirty politics of Congress party and its lousy leadership," he said.

Telangana Director General of Police B. Shivadhar Reddy on Wednesday issued a stern warning against character assassination and the misuse of social media platforms, reiterating that strict legal action would be taken against those who cross the limits of the law.

In a statement issued in Hyderabad on Wednesday, the DGP said he had earlier laid down guidelines on responsible use of social media and cautioned that violations would invite firm action.

INBRIEF

Rajkumar, the driving force behind 'Save Kurinji', dies

A bank employee-turned-environmentalist and the driving force behind the Save Kurinji Campaign, G. Rajkumar, passed away in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. He was 70. Fondly known as "Kurinji Rajkumar", he played a pivotal role in creating public awareness about the conservation of Neelakurinji (*Strobilanthes kunthiana*), which blooms once in 12 years. His lifelong dream was realised in October 2006 when the Kerala government established a Neelakurinji sanctuary in Idukki district.

U.P. man dies after kite string slashes his neck in Telangana

A 38-year-old man was killed on Wednesday after a kite string entangled around his neck while he was riding a motorcycle in Sangareddy district. The deceased was identified as Avadhesh Kumar, a native of Lakhimpur district in Uttar Pradesh. He is survived by wife, a son and a daughter. "While he was travelling on his bike, a kite string got entangled around his neck, causing fatal injuries. He died on the spot," police said. He had arrived in Sangareddy earlier in the day in search of work. The body was shifted to a government hospital for post-mortem.

Man who poisoned 250 dogs in Telangana traced to A.P.

The Telangana Police said it had identified the main suspect who allegedly poisoned at least 250 street dogs in three villages of Kamareddy district over the last two days. The suspect, Kishore Pandey, was traced to Andhra Pradesh on Wednesday, a police official said. A case had been registered against three sarpanches and the main accused over the deaths. Mr. Pandey had been reportedly hired to kill the dogs. Initial probe suggests that the killings were linked to promises made during the recent panchayat elections to tackle the problem of street dogs and monkeys.

Ayyappa's abode

The sacred jewels of Lord Ayyappa being carried up the 18 steps to the Sabarimala temple in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala, on Wednesday, as the Makaravilakku festival draws to a close. LEJU KAMAL

SIT to investigate replacement of Sabarimala flagstaff

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the Sabarimala gold theft has expanded the scope of its investigation to include the replacement of the temple's flagstaff.

The flagstaff at the temple was replaced in 2017, as the old one had deteriorated, during the tenure of Prayar Gopalakrishnan as Travancore Devaswom Board president.

The SIT received information regarding the replacement of the flagstaff after recording statements from several people linked to senior Tantri (chief priest) Kandararu Rajeevaru, who has been arrested in the "dishonest misappropriation" of the temple's gold-plated artefacts in 2019.

Following the flagpost replacement, the 'vaji vahanam' (horse effigy) that was part of the flagstaff was handed over to the chief priest. The SIT had raided the chief priest's residence and recovered the 'vaji vahanam'.

Meanwhile, former Devaswom Board member Ajay Tharayil said the 'vaji vahanam' belonged to the chief priest and was handed over in accordance with established customs and traditions.

Jose K. Mani rejects reports of shift to Congress-led UDF

Hiran Unnikrishnan
KOTTAYAM

Kerala Congress (M) chairman Jose K. Mani on Wednesday dismissed all speculation about the party shifting its allegiance to the Opposition United Democratic Front (UDF).

Speaking to the press-persons here, Mr. Mani reaffirmed that the party remains firmly committed to the Left Democratic Front (LDF) and stressed that "there is no need for concern for anyone outside" over the KC(M)'s position.

"We have been receiving invitations from many quarters but we are very happy staying with the LDF. Moreover, there is no need to explain our stance every day," he said.

Mr. Mani emphasised that "wherever the KC(M) holds sway, power remains with it" and the party stands fully united.

"There are clear reasons why I did not attend the recent Left front meetings, and both the Chief Minister and the party leadership are aware of them. Stephen George, as general secretary, has attended each of these meetings on our behalf. After all, the chairman cannot be present at every single meeting," explained Mr. Mani, who just returned from Dubai.

Kashi-Tamil Sangamam celebrates living unity of India's many traditions: Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hailed Tamil culture as a shared heritage of not only Bharat, but of all humanity.

He said Kashi-Tamil Sangamam highlighted its greatness, celebrated the living unity of India's many traditions while honouring their unique identities, and reinforced the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat (One India, Great India)".

In a blog titled "Kashi-Tamil Sangamam and a tribute to 'Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat'", Mr. Modi recounted a *Mann Ki Baat* episode in which he had said that not learning Tamil was a major regret of his life.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the Pongal celebrations at Union Minister of State L. Murugan's residence in New Delhi. ANI

He said the government had launched various programmes to popularise Tamil culture across India. One such initiative was the Kashi-Tamil Sangamam.

It had delivered outcomes like "strengthening cultural understanding, fostering academic and people-to-people exchanges, and creating lasting bonds between parts of the country that share a civilisational ethos".

"And what can be a better place than Kashi to host such a Sangamam. The same Kashi, which has remained a civilisational anchor from time immemorial...," said Mr. Modi, adding that Kashi's connection with Tamil people and culture was very deep.

"Tenkasi in Tamil Nadu is known as Kashi of the South or Dakshin Kashi. Saint Kumaraguruparar Swamigal forged a lasting link between Kashi and Tamil Nadu through his spirituality, scholarship and institution-building. Mahakavi Subramania Bharati, one of Tamil Nadu's greatest sons, found in Kashi a space of intellectual growth and spiritual awakening," he said.

The first edition of Sangamam took place in 2022, and subsequent ones expanded the scale and depth of the efforts.

Moving on

India is getting rid of an outdated dataset for measuring inflation

The retail inflation figure for December 2025 is the final instalment of the current series of the Consumer Price Index (CPI), with a base year of 2012, before it is updated to a new base year and with new weightages. The CPI data this year have been particularly useful in highlighting the problems with relying on a dataset that has not been updated in more than a decade. The inflation figure for December 2025 stood at 1.33%. The fact that it was a three-month high is merely a statistical curiosity since it was also the third lowest since the current series began. Overall, in the April-December 2025 period, inflation has averaged 1.7%, substantially lower than the 4.9% average in the same period of 2024. But it does not feel that way. Anecdotal evidence and hard data show that the inflation that people are really experiencing is far higher than what the official data show. For example, the government's own first advance estimates for GDP growth this year show that it expects private consumption to grow slower than it did last year. If inflation had indeed eased to the degree that the official data suggest, surely consumption should have picked up. According to its latest edition of the Reserve Bank of India's inflation expectations survey from December, households perceived inflation to be 6.6% – a far cry from the official 1.33% – and felt that it would accelerate to 7.6% in three months and to 8% in a year. The feeling clearly is that not only are prices rising, but they are rising at a faster rate. Failing to capture this is where the official data let policymakers down.

The most basic issue with any inflation data is that a single figure is expected to capture the variety of price changes that take place across the country. The national inflation number aggregates price levels and movements from districts in Kashmir to villages in Kerala and everywhere in between, for both urban and rural. Naturally it will lose nuances in the process. Further, while this is the natural peril of computing national statistics for a diverse country such as India, the outdated nature of the CPI makes matters significantly worse. The weightages of the various sub-sectors in the index were based on consumption patterns in 2012. People consume very differently now, especially because of various central and State subsidies being offered. Thankfully, on February 12, the government will release the January inflation data based on the new series of the CPI. This series will see the base year updated to 2024, and will incorporate new weights based on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24. It is an update sorely needed.

The great reckoning

Iran needs more freedoms and quick reforms, not another war

What began as a localised strike by shopkeepers in Tehran's Grand Bazaar on December 28 over the collapsing rial and soaring inflation has snowballed into the gravest challenge the Islamic Republic has faced since its founding in 1979. The scale and the persistence of protests laid bare deep-seated public resentment towards the state. Iran, long battered by stringent western sanctions, is grappling with entrenched economic distress that worsened after Israel's bombing campaign in June 2025. In December, the government raised fuel prices and rolled back some food subsidies, a move that, combined with surging prices of essentials, ignited public anger. Protests turned violent last week, prompting a brutal state crackdown. Rights groups in the U.S. and Norway claimed that hundreds of protesters were killed, while Iran's state media reported that dozens of security personnel were killed by "rioters". Iran has weathered internal upheavals before and has repeatedly faced external aggression, most recently the Israeli-American attack in June. But what makes the crisis now distinct is the convergence of both: domestic unrest unfolding along with the threat of external intervention. On January 13, U.S. President Donald Trump, who had repeatedly threatened to make a military intervention, urged the protesters to "take over" Iran's institutions and said "help is on its way".

Iran's political and economic system is unsustainable. Repeated protests have exposed structural weaknesses, while the state has shown little capacity to address public grievances. But the solution is not another bombing campaign. While Iran's rulers are under pressure, it is wrong to assume that they are internally isolated. About 30 million people, roughly 50% of the electorate, voted in the 2024 presidential elections. On January 12, thousands of Iranians took to the streets in pro-government rallies. Despite the Israeli bombings, sustained protests and Mr. Trump's threats, there are no visible cracks in the loyalty of the security apparatus. An American attack aimed at forced regime change would risk plunging the region into deeper chaos or throwing Iran into prolonged cycles of violence. Instead of "liberation" from the tyranny of theocracy, a war would bring more suffering to the people. Anyone with even a cursory understanding of U.S. invasions in Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya knows that regime change wars do not resolve internal political crises. Yet, the U.S. appears prepared to repeat the discredited and dangerous path. Those genuinely concerned about the well-being of Iran should instead press for engagement with its rulers and encourage meaningful reform. What Iran needs is quick, credible change to address its economic, political and social crises, a task Tehran can undertake only with foreign assistance – not with another imperial war.

The continued custody in Delhi Riots cases, an injustice

Gautam Bhatia

is a Delhi-based lawyer

The order of the Supreme Court of India on January 5, 2026, in the Delhi Riots 'Larger Conspiracy' Case, where it granted bail to five individuals but denied it to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam has, once again, raised questions about the way in which our legal system deals with crucial questions of personal liberty.

The seven students and activists, who had been involved in protests in Delhi in 2020 against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 - were arrested and accused of instigating or being involved in the riots that took place after the protests. The veracity of the allegations apart, by the time the case came to the Court, they had spent upwards of five years in jail, without trial (at the time of writing, the trial has yet to commence). Previous judgments of the Court have frequently observed that the right to speedy trial is a constitutionally guaranteed right under Article 21 of the Constitution; only recently, the Court noted that if the state is unable to guarantee a trial within a reasonable period of time, it has no business objecting to a plea for bail. In light of this, one would have thought that half a decade in jail – with the trial yet to commence – is an adequate ground for bail.

Unconvincing reasoning

While the Court found it an adequate ground for five individuals, it denied bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam on the basis that these two individuals had been accused of "conceptualising" or orchestrating the riots, and, therefore, stood on a different footing from the other accused. This reasoning is unconvincing. The accusations against the two, at this stage, are nothing more than accusations, and the right not to be incarcerated for an indefinite period without trial is a human right that belongs to every person. It cannot be that an individual has less of a right to a speedy trial just by virtue of what the state has accused them of.

The Court also noted that the delay in the trial so far was not solely due to the prosecution or the court, but had also been at the instance of the accused. This, also, is unconvincing. Accused individuals cannot control the pace of a trial or the proceedings of a courtroom. It is the judge who does so. The judge is empowered to refuse requests for adjournments, if indeed this was what was happening, and proceed with the trial. The Court also did not consider the likelihood of the trial concluding within any meaningful period of time such as, for example, by looking at the total number of witnesses in the case (a number that runs into many hundreds).

The top court's denial of bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam raises questions about the way in which India's legal system deals with crucial questions of personal liberty

This creates a situation where, solely on the basis of the state's accusations, individuals can be incarcerated for decades before a final verdict in their cases. One hopes that the Court's observation at the end – namely, that Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam can re-apply for bail on grounds of delay after one year – indicates a judicial belief that if five-and-a-half years of imprisonment without trial is not too long, then, at least, six and a half years is. But for that, we will have to wait and see.

The critical issues

The Court's examination of the merits of the bail cases also raises critical issues. Section 15 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) defines the offence of terrorism, and after setting out the basic ingredients of the offence (such as the use of violence or weapons), uses the phrase "by any other means". There is a general principle in criminal law that courts will interpret ambiguous or vague phrases narrowly in order to protect the individual from state excess. However, the Court departs from that principle by giving the phrase "by any other means" a broad interpretation, and seemingly including "*chakka jams*" within the ambit of the phrase. This broad reading is problematic for many reasons.

First, it vests a vast discretion in the prosecution, that is, the state, in deciding which kinds of protests (including *chakka jams*) will be dealt with under the UAPA's stringent provisions, and those under ordinary law. Indeed, the vaguer and more expansive a definition in criminal law, the more unbridled power it vests in the state.

Second, this has a downstream impact on bail. Under Section 43(D)(5) of the UAPA, bail is not to be granted if the court is satisfied – to put it simply – that there is a "prima facie" case against the accused. This provision, which was originally used by the colonial British government to imprison Indian nationalists, is, therefore, closely linked to the substantive provisions of the UAPA, as the question of whether or not there is a "prima facie" case will depend on what exactly the ingredients of the offence are.

By widening the scope of Section 15 of the UAPA, denial of bail becomes far more likely, as it is much easier to establish a "prima facie" case, which is based entirely on the Prosecution's materials. Once again, there is a long-established principle in criminal law that the more draconian or stringent a law, the more cautiously it should be interpreted, in order to prevent state abuse. The Court's judgment departs from that principle. One hopes that this interpretation – which is, at the moment, provisional, as it was delivered in a bail case – will be revised by the Court in due course.

Need for scrutiny, not deference

Finally, the expansive nature of Section 15 apart, the Court's scrutiny of the prosecution's actual case is highly deferential. The actual evidence against Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam – evidence on the record – only demonstrates the organisation and facilitation of protests (and, at its highest, *chakka jams*) against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, none of which can be remotely called a "terrorist act", even under the broadest of definitions. To fill in the gaps, the Prosecution has argued that Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam have "managerial responsibility" for the riots, as they were at the head of a "conspiracy" to cause these riots.

The Court notes that such a possibility "cannot be ruled out" and that any deeper scrutiny of the Prosecution's case would be beyond its remit as it cannot consider possible defences at the stage of bail. However, there is a difference between considering defences and accepting the Prosecution's inferences that go well beyond the actual record, especially when individual liberty – after five years of incarceration – hangs in the balance.

It is worth remembering that across time, and across space, right from the days of the Dreyfus Affair in 19th century France, the idea of a "conspiracy" has been frequently deployed to compensate for the absence of actual evidence, and to keep people in jail endlessly. The evidence of history should inform the present: allegations of conspiracy, without evidence, deserve searching scrutiny, not deference. At the very least, the absence of direct evidence should not become a reason for an endless imprisonment without trial, and a blurring of the right to protest with acts of violence.

In this context, the continued imprisonment of Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam is an injustice; it is an injustice that, one hopes, is remedied sooner rather than later.

An exploration of India's minerals diplomacy

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Today, India's clean energy transitions are impossible without imported critical minerals and rare earths. The country needs these minerals now, and China's tightening export controls only heighten the urgency. Just like other countries around the world, India is also committing to diversify mineral trade linkages, promote responsible production and build standards-based markets.

India needs a two-pronged strategy to build long-term capability at home while securing immediate access abroad. Realising this, over the past five years, New Delhi has pursued close to a dozen bilateral and multilateral partnerships across continents while bolstering domestic mineral policies. The question is about what these engagements have delivered to India and whether there is a need for recalibration.

The two sides to partnerships

Some partnerships have advanced more meaningfully than others. Australia emerges as reliable, offering political stability, large reserves and a strategic vision. Cooperation here is active with long-term supply discussions, joint research and targeted investments. In 2022 under the India-Australia Critical Minerals Investment Partnership, the two countries identified five target projects for potential investment in lithium and cobalt.

Japan provides a template for resilience, exemplifying an institutional model for long-term planning rather than reactive deals. When China restricted rare earth exports to Tokyo a decade ago, Japan responded with diversification, stockpiling, recycling and sustained research and development. Beyond its long-standing cooperation with Indian Rare Earths Limited, the partnership has now extended into potential joint extraction processing and stockpiling minerals, both bilaterally and in third countries, under a cooperation agreement last year.

African nations, given their long-standing trade linkages with India, offer similar opportunities, with mineral abundance paired with rising demands for local value creation. India's recent agreements with Namibia for lithium, rare earths and uranium as well as asset-acquisition talks in Zambia for copper and cobalt reflect a growing push to turn towards Africa. India must approach Africa with a long-term industrial mindset or risk losing ground to more coordinated competitors.

India must use its country-by-country approach to build resilience across the value chain

Despite previous political enthusiasm around "friend-shoring", cooperation on critical minerals has struggled to move beyond dialogue with the United States. Recent American tariffs on Indian goods, shifting trade rules and restrictive Inflation Reduction Act incentives complicate stable engagement. The volatility of the U.S.'s trade policy makes it hard for New Delhi to rely on Washington, even though the U.S. could be a significant technology and downstream innovation partner. The Transforming the Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology (TRUST) Initiative and the Strategic Minerals Recovery Initiative propose frameworks for joint work on rare-earth processing, battery recycling and clean separation technologies.

The European Union (EU)'s Critical Raw Materials Act, the European Battery Alliance and its circular economy agenda show how regulation, sustainability and industrial strategy can reinforce each other. Progress requires India to align with the EU's requirements on transparency, lifecycle standards and environmental norms.

West Asia holds potential but lacks institutional depth and long-term frameworks. The United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia are investing heavily in battery materials, refining capacity and green hydrogen, with sovereign wealth funds acquiring mining stakes across Africa and Latin America. For India, West Asia could become an important midstream partner, processing minerals sourced elsewhere.

Russia's reserves of rare earths, cobalt and lithium are substantial, and scientific ties with India are longstanding. Yet, sanctions, financing challenges and logistical unpredictability constrain reliability. Russia could be an important hedge, not a foundation.

New frontiers

Latin America presents India's new frontiers with expanded engagement in Argentina, Chile, Peru and, increasingly, Brazil. These countries are becoming central to global copper, nickel and rare-earth strategies. There have been substantial investments by public and private sector companies from India into projects in these regions. Khanij Bidesh India Limited (KABIL) has signed a ₹200 crore exploration and development agreement with Argentina. However, competition for Indian companies is intense, and engagement remains at an early stage. A lasting presence will require value-chain partnerships and local processing, not extraction-only agreements.

With the restoration of diplomatic ties with Canada recently, Ottawa emerges as an important player. With reserves of nickel, cobalt, copper and rare earths, and a recently signed trilateral agreement with Australia and India, Canada has potential to become a strong minerals partner. Yet, political stability between the two countries will be key.

Develop integrated partnerships

Across all regions, lessons converge. Securing ore is not enough. The choke point is processing. Without domestic refining and midstream capability, India remains exposed to supply chain vulnerabilities. Technology, innovation and on-ground project implementation matters far more than announcements. India must use its country-by-country approach to build resilience across the value-chain. Africa, Australia, Canada and Latin America for upstream ore extraction; West Asia (the Gulf) and Japan for midstream processing of the mineral ores; the EU and the U.S. for downstream technology creation such as batteries and recycling, and Russia for diversification.

While it is important for India to be also open to cooperation with additional partners, such as South Korea and Indonesia, it first needs to have a clear strategic vision for existing partnerships. None of this will deliver results unless India strengthens its domestic framework for responsible mining with issues such as Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and transparency increasingly becoming a key issue in international partnerships.

India has built an impressive web of critical minerals partnerships. The next step is to deepen what works, rethink what does not, and ensure technology, processing and long-term certainty.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ten minute service

The decision by some delivery platforms to remove the 10-minute delivery system from their application is a welcome step (Front page, January 14). Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya's intervention needs to be applauded. It is inhumane to have gig workers racing against time, putting their lives at risk. Let us not forget that delivery boys are humans. Lives are precious and one cannot be the character in *Do Bigha Zamin* (1953).

Here, Balraj Sahni, who pulls a manual cart, is poor. He is tempted to pull the cart at great speed and ends up hurting himself badly. Speeding amounts to slavery.

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Delivery in 10 minutes is a despicable practice. However, with the implementation of the four labour codes, it is ironic that the same government remains oblivious to the draconian changes that have been made with regard to the working hours of workers in a day, their wages and their service conditions. The government should hold talks with central trade unions in connection with sorting out all their concerns.

J. Anantha Padmanabhan,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

This is only a temporary respite for gig workers. With workers in this sector expected to touch 2.35 crore by 2029-30, they need to get the status of regular employees and have proper health, disability and accident insurance.

Dr. Thomas Palocaren,
Vellore, Tamil Nadu

Court on dog bites

The proposal of the Supreme Court of India to impose heavy compensation for dog bites is right.

The municipalities concerned should not only pay a heavy compensation for dog bites within their jurisdiction but also meet the entire medical expenses of victims. The street dog population has increased exponentially and it is a case of 'animal terrorism' on the roads. Callous municipalities and irrational dog feeders have compounded a problem that involves public health and safety. Those who feed street dogs should also be booked and fined heavily. They could display their love for dogs better by adopting one or two of them and keeping them at home. Families that adopt such dogs can be given some sort of cash incentive.

Matthew Adukanil,
Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Why India needs a mentoring movement

Aditi Jha,
Executive Director, Legal and Public Policy Lead – South Asia, LinkedIn

Arundhuti Gupta
Founder and CEO, Mentor Together

Rajeev Gowda
Former Member of Parliament

India stands at a pivotal moment. More than 40 million young people are in higher education, and over 10 million are entering the labour market every year. It is crucial that we equip them with the skills, confidence, and networks they need to thrive.

Recent policy initiatives reflect a growing focus on strengthening the education-to-employment pipeline – through upgraded skilling institutions, expanded internship opportunities, and measures to support young people in their first jobs. These are important efforts. But policy and infrastructure alone cannot bridge the gap between learning and livelihood.

This gap is deeply human. It shows up in the fears, uncertainties, and limited exposure that young people, especially first-generation learners, carry as they step into adulthood. It shows up in young women who complete degrees and training but struggle to enter or stay in the workforce because of norms, safety constraints, and low confidence. It shows up in those who possess equal talent but not equal access to opportunity. These challenges have intensified as Artificial Intelligence reshapes entry-level work.

Bridging the gap

We need a way to bridge this gap. LinkedIn data show that employers are increasingly seeking human-centric skills – communication, problem-solving, adaptability, and leadership. How do we cultivate these skills?

The answer lies in mentoring. Around the world, mentoring has proven to be a powerful tool for supporting young people through key transitions. Mentoring bridges the space between what systems provide and what young people need at a personal level: someone who listens, understands their context, helps them articulate aspirations, and navigates uncertainty alongside them.

Mentoring has particular resonance for India because it responds directly to inequalities in access to opportunity. Our work building India's mentoring movement through Mentor Together for over 15 years shows that high-quality mentoring significantly improves career decision-making, social intelligence, self-efficacy beliefs, and gender attitudes around work.

This is especially powerful for young women, who enter higher education on par with men; yet fewer than 40% with advanced qualifications participate in the labour force. LinkedIn data show that the median network strength for men is 8.3 percentile points higher than that of women, and job seekers are four times more likely to secure employment where they already have connections. When young women enhance their networks and meet mentors who understand their realities, it expands their sense of what is possible. Like it did for Bindu, a student at a government engineering college, who found apprenticeship opportunities through mentoring that led to a full-time role at the BT Group. As India strives to increase women's economic participation, mentoring becomes a crucial enabler – for entry into work, retention, and progression.

Governments are beginning to integrate mentoring within mainstream systems. The Union Ministry of Labour and Employment has built mentoring into the National Career Service platform. State governments in Karnataka and Telangana are implementing mentoring at scale across collegiate and technical education. This marks a crucial shift: mentoring is not an extra, but an essential component of building human capability.

A recent gathering of over 400 experts and practitioners at India's second annual Mentoring Summit highlighted the need for a national architecture rooted in quality, inclusion, and intentional design, supported by clear standards for mentor training and conduct, structured and evidence-aligned curricula, strong monitoring and safeguarding systems, and digital platforms that expand access while preserving human connection.

Mentoring has particular resonance for India because it responds directly to inequalities in access to opportunity

Towards a nation of mentors

The time is ripe for India to launch a national mentoring movement. This requires massive collective action across a range of stakeholders. Governments can create the policy architecture that enables mentoring to become a structural part of education, skilling, and employment systems. Non-profits build training, safeguarding, and curriculum frameworks; demonstrate what works; and support institutions to implement mentoring consistently and with quality. Corporates can mobilise volunteers and networks – opening pathways many young people would never otherwise access. The LinkedIn Coaches Program is one example: employees volunteer their time to offer one-on-one coaching, networking guidance, and mock interview preparation to young job seekers from underserved backgrounds. Since 2015, this has supported more than one million young adults across tier 2 and tier 3 engineering colleges. When companies embed mentoring within CSR and leadership development strategies, they strengthen young people's access to opportunity while building empathetic, skilled leaders within their own workforce. Philanthropy can fund long-term infrastructure – technology, research, and capacity building. Researchers can test what works, for whom, and at what cost, building evidence that strengthens design, improves outcomes, and informs policy and investment decisions.

Ultimately, mentoring is about people stepping forward to support the next generation. If even a fraction of India's working professionals mentor one young person a year, we could unlock a shift in opportunity and aspiration at a national scale.

The politics of fear in a melting pot

A Mayoral election in the U.S. sparked a debate over a Muslim Mayor in Mumbai

STATE OF PLAY

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
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As Maharashtra heads to elections today for 29 municipal corporations, all eyes are on Mumbai, where the BJP-Shiv Sena combine is fighting against the Thackerays for control of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC). This election is being closely watched for many reasons. First, the estranged Thackeray cousins – Raj and Uddhav – have reunited after two decades in the hope of consolidating the Marathi vote bank. Second, unlikely alliances have been formed in Mumbai since the split of the two main regional parties of Maharashtra – the Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP).

In this election, both the Senas are fighting against each other, ostensibly for the same vote bank. Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena is fighting in alliance with the ruling BJP, while the Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) is fighting against them, bereft of the Congress's support. Meanwhile, both the NCP and the NCP (Sharad Chandra Pawar) are fighting against the BJP, though the NCP led by Ajit Pawar is part of the State government alongside the saffron party.

The election for the BMC is being compared to the recent Mayoral election of New York City (NYC). Mumbai, like NYC, is a financial powerhouse; a cultural melting pot with sizeable migrant populations; a city that never sleeps. Like NYC, it stands on the toil and sweat of several migrants and communities who have contributed to the city's wealth over generations. But during this campaign, the connection ran

deeper. This was clear not only in the BJP's fear-mongering about the possibility of a Muslim becoming Mayor, but also in how Mr. Raj Thackeray inverted NYC Mayor Zohran Mamdani's advocacy of the 'politics of the periphery' as a route to power.

The last Muslim Mayor Mumbai saw was 43 years ago. The fear that the BJP tried to spread in this election was not just about the possibility of a Muslim Mayor; it was also about the changing demography of the city, which the party linked to a lack of safety. "We warn of a particular community's silent demographic and cultural invasion. What happened at Bondi Beach, Australia, could happen at Girgaum Chowpatty tomorrow. Illegal encroachments and infiltration have been backed by political patronage in Mumbai slums. Shiv Sena UBT former Cabinet minister settled Bangladeshis and the Rohingya in Mumbai slums," said Ameet Satam, BJP Mumbai president. "We will not allow the colour of Mumbai to change, and we will not allow the Mamdanisation of Mumbai," he added. Citing a study by the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mr. Satam claimed that the Hindu population in Mumbai dwindled from 88% in 1951 to 66% in 2011, while the Muslim population increased from 8% to 21% in the same period.

All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen leader Waris Pathan then declared that a burqe-wali (a burqa-clad woman) would become Mayor. This comment was picked up by the BJP to taunt Mr. Uddhav Thackeray's Shiv Sena. The party claimed that since the Shiv Sena (UBT) did not hit back at the AIMIM, a 'Khan' would become the Mayor of Mumbai if the Shiv Sena (UBT) was voted to power.

The Shiv Sena (UBT), which has been trying to appeal to the minority vote bank, refrained from commenting on the issue. This further emboldened the BJP to target Mr. Uddhav Thackeray. When asked about it, party leader Aaditya Thackeray said, "It is not Zohran Mamdani that the BJP is targeting individually. The party has problems with a leader democratically elected by NYC as its Mayor. Since it does not have the courage to criticise [U.S. President Donald] Trump on his tariff policy, it has targeted Mr. Mamdani. There is no doubt that a Marathi person will become the Mayor of Mumbai."

Meanwhile, Mr. Mamdani's campaign also caught the imagination of Maharashtra Navnirman Sena chief Raj Thackeray. The 'politics of periphery' refers to a political approach that links local issues affecting marginalised communities with broader global struggles. Mr. Mamdani focused on bringing marginalised communities, long overlooked in traditional politics, to the centre of the political discourse. But Mr. Raj Thackeray turned this concept on its head, arguing that the "original" inhabitants of Mumbai have been pushed to the periphery.

A city that thrives on plurality cannot be governed through fear of the 'other' without its social cohesion being undermined.

Over 77% of Rajasthan's illegal mining FIRs filed in Aravalli districts

Recent proposed changes threaten to aggravate the situation by removing protections

DATA POINT

Devyanshi Bihani

The districts in Rajasthan, which host roughly 70% of the entire Aravalli range, are suffering from a disproportionately high volume of illegal mining, data show. While these Aravalli districts account for less than 45% of the State's mining leases and contribute only 40% of its total mineral output, their share of illegal mining cases exceeds 56%. The Aravalli districts also account for more than 77% of all First Information Reports (FIRs) lodged for illegal mining in the State.

Clearly, the Aravalli landscape is the epicentre of Rajasthan's mining crisis. Recent proposed changes to the legal definition of what constitutes an 'Aravalli hill' threaten to further aggravate this situation by potentially removing protections against mining from vast stretches of the range. Ironically, the changes proposed were actually initiated as a measure to curb illegal mining in the first place.

Legal tussle

The Aravalli hills, among the oldest mountain systems in the world, have become the focus of an ongoing legal and policy dispute over their definition and the rules governing mining activity. While examining issues related to mining in the region, the Supreme Court observed in May 2024 that the lack of a consistent definition of the Aravalli hills and ranges across States has been a key factor enabling illegal mining.

Since 2010, expert agencies, such as the Forest Survey of India (FSI), have identified the Aravalli hills based on a set of physical parameters, including a slope greater than three degrees, a 100-metre foothill buffer, an inter-hill distance or valley width of 500 metres, and an area enclosed by such hills from all sides.

To address the lack of uniformity in how the range is defined, the Court set up a committee led by the Union Environment Secretary, bringing together officials from the FSI, State Forest Departments, the Geological Survey of India, and the Central Empowered Committee. The panel was mandated to evolve a scientifically robust definition of the Aravallis that could be applied across the country.

The technical committee (comprising officials from scientific agencies and not the Environment Ministry) in 2024 suggested that any landform with a slope of at least 4.57 degrees and a height of at least 30 metres be identified as an Aravalli hill. The Environment Ministry, however, advanced a different approach, suggesting that only landforms in Aravalli districts rising at least 100 metres above the local relief be classified as Aravalli hills, and that hills within 500 metres of each other be treated collectively as part of the Aravalli range. This approach eventually reflected in the Supreme Court's November 2025 order.

Experts including the FSI, which was part of the committee, raised red flags saying this may exclude most of the hills, leaving them potentially open to mining. The amicus curiae, K. Parameswar, also objected to this conclusion, stating that it was too narrow and could open hills below 100 metres to mining, thereby compromising the continuity and integrity of the Aravalli system.

With protests intensifying across the State, the Court subsequently kept the judgment in abeyance, ordering that the stay would remain until the matter reached finality. In the interim, the Union government imposed a freeze on granting new mining leases in the Aravalli landscape.

Impact on Rajasthan

Reclassification carries significant implications for mining regulation. If a landform is no longer classified as part of the Aravallis, it falls outside the specific mining controls and moratorium linked to the Aravalli framework.

The stakes are particularly high in Rajasthan. Of the roughly 800-km-long Aravalli range, around 560 km lie within Rajasthan. The range passes through 37 districts **(Map 1)** of which 20 are in Rajasthan. Moreover, Rajasthan hosts 16 of the 22 wildlife sanctuaries located in the Aravalli landscape, including three tiger reserves (Ranthambore, Sariska, Mukundra).

In 2021-22, States across India reported 90,173 illegal mining cases. Rajasthan accounted for more than 10% of these cases **(Chart 2)**, placing it among the States with the highest number of reported incidents nationally. More importantly, within the State, the burden of these violations falls heavily on one specific geographic region.

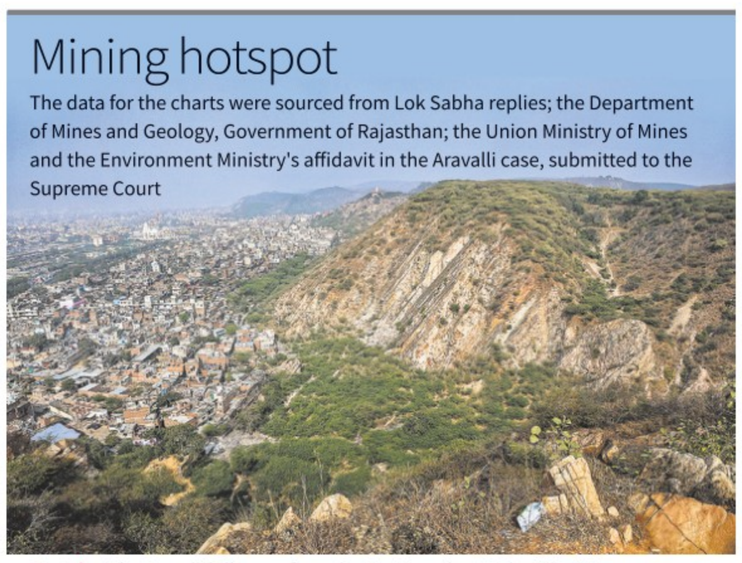
Between 2020 and 2023, Rajasthan recorded 28,166 illegal mining cases, of which 15,772 (or 56%) were registered in Aravalli districts, even though these districts account for less than 45% of the State's mining leases issued in the same period. Policing data show that of the 2,671 FIRs related to illegal mining lodged during this period, 2,070 (nearly 77.5%), originated from Aravalli districts between 2020 and 2023 **(Chart 3)**.

Moreover, between 2015 and 2022, Aravalli districts produced 918.8 million tonnes of minerals, accounting for only 40.6% of Rajasthan's total output of 2.26 billion tonnes. Together, these figures reveal a stark reality: the Aravallis contribute a smaller portion of the State's legal mineral wealth, but they bear a vastly disproportionate share of its mining-related lawlessness.

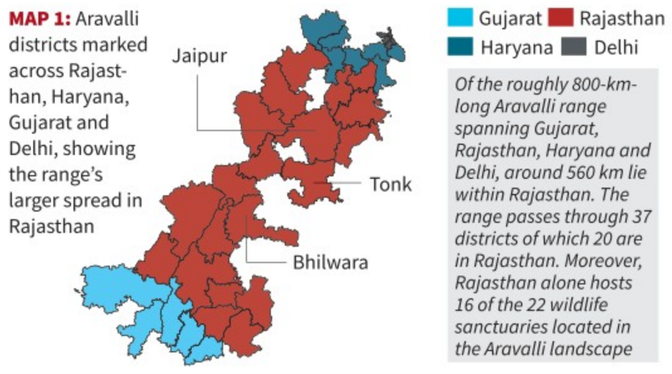
Beyond questions of legal classification, the Aravallis are ecologically vital. They slow the spread of sand and dust from the Thar Desert towards eastern Rajasthan, Haryana, and western Uttar Pradesh. They support groundwater recharge in an arid region, stabilise the local climate, and function as an important wildlife corridor.

Mining hotspot

The data for the charts were sourced from Lok Sabha replies; the Department of Mines and Geology, Government of Rajasthan; the Union Ministry of Mines and the Environment Ministry's affidavit in the Aravalli case, submitted to the Supreme Court



At stake: The Aravalli hills seen from the Sun Temple at Galta Ji in Jaipur on January 3, 2026. PTI



MAP 1: Aravalli districts marked across Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat and Delhi, showing the range's larger spread in Rajasthan

Of the roughly 800-km-long Aravalli range spanning Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi, around 560 km lie within Rajasthan. The range passes through 37 districts of which 20 are in Rajasthan. Moreover, Rajasthan alone hosts 16 of the 22 wildlife sanctuaries located in the Aravalli landscape

CHART 2: Number of illegal mining-related cases reported by States in 2021-22

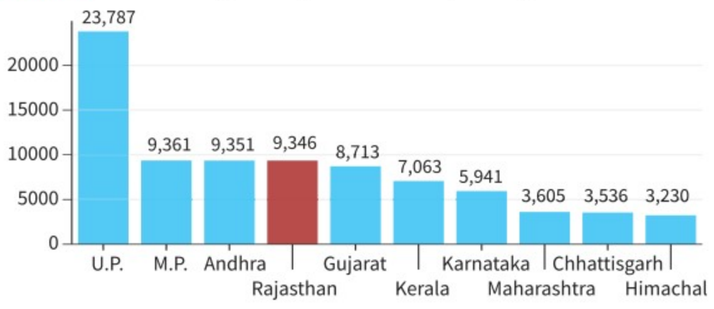
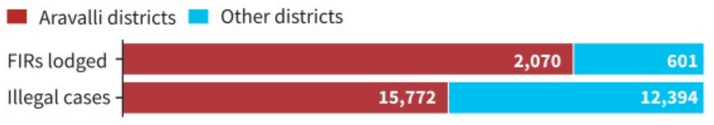


CHART 3: Number of FIRs and illegal mining cases filed in Aravalli districts in Rajasthan compared with other districts in the State between 2020 and 2023



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 15, 1976

Discipline necessary for progress

Panaji, Jan. 14: Discipline, hard work and honesty alone could take the country forward in its march of progress, President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed said here to-day.

Japan and West Germany were two great examples of the post-war era which had attained economic prosperity through these principles, he said.

Replying to a civic reception, the President said countries like Britain, France and America, too, found it difficult to compete with Japan and West Germany.

Rights and responsibilities were inseparable and irrespective of religion, language and caste, every citizen had a responsibility tagged on to every right, he said.

The President said discipline was essential in every walk of life, whether at home, at college, or in Government.

He affirmed that an average Indian was as hard-working as anyone else in the United States or in any other country. Unfortunately, while some worked hard, "some sleep", thinking that the work which others did was enough. This attitude, Mr. Ahmed said, was wrong and should be corrected.

The President reminded the civic bodies that they had a big task to discharge. He asked them to undertake works like drainage, roads, cleanliness and other public amenities.

He also cautioned that any programme they undertook should have the full co-operation and involvement of the people for their success.

Referring to the block development scheme, Mr. Ahmed regretted that the amount invested in them "has been wasted". Some blocks had been occupied either by cattle of officials.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 15, 1926

Food crisis in Ceylon

Colombo, Jan. 14: A food crisis in the Batticaloa District is feared as the result of the "Lady McCallum" disaster. Already the Government Agent has instituted a system of control. But there are no early prospects of supplies of foodstuffs being sent to relieve the situation. A vessel left Colombo last night for Trincomalee. But she will not call at Batticaloa; and no other vessel has been arranged for during the month. The land route from Trincomalee to Batticaloa is circuitous, and the cost of transport prohibitive.

From Page One

Iran signals executions, trials amid U.S. threat

People elsewhere in Iran remained fearful in the streets. Plainclothes security forces still milled around some neighbourhoods, though anti-riot police and members of the paramilitary Revolutionary Guard's all-volunteer Basij force appeared to have been sent back to their barracks.

One Arab Gulf diplomat told the *AP* that governments in the region had been discouraging the Trump administration from launching a war now with Iran, fearing "unprecedented consequences" for the region that could explode into a "full-blown war".

Meanwhile, activists said on Wednesday that Starlink was offering free service in Iran. The satellite internet service has been key in getting around an internet shutdown launched by the government on January 8. Iran began allowing people to call out internationally on Tuesday via their mobile phones, but calls from people outside the country into Iran remain blocked.

"We can confirm that the free subscription for Starlink terminals is fully functional," said Mehdi Yahyanejad, a Los Angeles-based activist who has helped get the units into Iran. "We tested it using a newly activated Starlink terminal inside Iran."

Security service personnel also apparently were searching for Starlink dishes, as people in northern Tehran reported authorities raiding apartment buildings with satellite dishes. While satellite television dishes are illegal, many in the capital have them in homes, and officials broadly had given up on enforcing the law in recent years.

Kuki-Zo Council pushes its demand for U.T.

"For nearly three years, the Kuki-Zo people have been unable to access the Imphal Valley, leading to severe humanitarian, economic, medical and administrative hardships. Our demand for a union territory with legislature is well within the ambit of the Constitution of India," it said, urging Mr. Shah to expedite a political solution to ensure lasting peace, dignity and security for Kuki-Zos.

"Provocative attempt"

The KZC also drew the Home Minister's attention to the "highly sensitive and dangerous issue of resettling Meitei IDPs in buffer zone areas, which poses a serious threat to peace and risks reigniting ethnic violence".

It said such actions had been viewed as direct provocations and carried a high potential for renewed conflict. "The buffer zone was instituted precisely to prevent confrontation and bloodshed. Any violation, dilution, or selective enforcement of this arrangement undermines public confidence, weakens law and order and threatens the fragile peace," it added.

The KZC further sought action against "encroachments due to incorrect district and police jurisdiction boundaries" and attempts to halt construction and development of inter-village roads in the Kuki-Zo areas, apart from protecting Kuki-Zo land and properties in Imphal Valley.

'No demand from Centre for sharing source code'

MAIT pointed out in its own statement that the 2023 Indian Telecom Security Assurance Requirement (ITSAR) had language around source code disclosure completely removed last June itself through an office memorandum by the NCCS.

"These consultations are part of the Ministry's regular and ongoing engagement with industry on safety and security standards," the IT Ministry had said on Sunday.

The amendment, of which the *Reuters* reporting seemed unaware, changes a section that mentions source code disclosure to simply requiring an "[i]nternal test report excluding Intellectual Property (IP) related information, but mandatorily including summary of number of security vulnerabilities/weaknesses classified by risk".

"MAIT wishes to categorically state that the Office Memorandum issued on 18 June 2025 by the Government of India overrules any prior interpretations suggesting mandatory sharing of source code," the industry body said. "The memorandum provides clear guidance that supersedes earlier drafts or discussions, ensuring alignment with industry best practices and safeguarding intellectual property. MAIT's internal documents are solely for internal deliberation and knowledge-sharing among members."

"The association also commends MeitY's transparent and consultative approach in shaping policy frameworks... The structured consultations have enabled industry stakeholders, experts, and policymakers to collaborate constructively, ensuring that diverse perspectives are considered."

The agency's report over the weekend appeared to rely on documents that referred to the unamended version of the standards document, which was issued in April 2023. A phone maker shall ensure that "security assurance Test Labs will conduct the Source Code Review/ Analysis, vulnerability analysis, penetration testing and fuzzing", the older version said.

Excerpts of industry documents indicated that even these were under the impression that the pre-amendment version of the document prevailed. "MAIT's internal documents are solely for internal deliberation and knowledge-sharing among members," the industry association said.

Jaishankar speaks to Iranian Foreign Minister amid unrest

India reiterates advisory against travel to Iran in near future; Embassy in Tehran urges Indians and persons of Indian origin to leave amid continuing protests or reach out to the mission for help

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

People attend the funeral of the security personnel killed in the recent protests, in Tehran. REUTERS

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Wednesday spoke to Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi and discussed the current unrest in Iran as well as the growing regional tensions in West Asia. The conversation took place hours after the Ministry of External Affairs "strongly advised" Indian citizens to avoid travelling to Iran "until further notice". The Embassy of India in Tehran also urged Indian nationals and persons of Indian origin to leave the country by any available means of transport, including commercial airlines, and asked their India-based family members to register them on the embassy helpline page.

"Received a call from Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi. We discussed the evolving situation in and around Iran," Mr. Jaishankar said. He had, a day earlier, spoken to U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened Iran's government and announced a 25% tariff for any country that wishes to trade with the U.S. while maintaining trade ties with Iran. As strategic partners, India and Iran have important connectivity and security interests, which have also come under pressure following Mr. Trump's latest tariff announcement.

Mr. Araghchi was expected to travel to India this month as the two countries had been contemplating events in the coming months, with 2026 marking the 75th anniversary of the establishment of India-Iran diplomatic ties. Diplomatic sources had earlier told *The Hindu* that Mr. Araghchi's visit was confirmed for this week, though a final announcement from the Indian side did not take place as the internal situation escalated in Iran. India has been in talks to ensure the safety of its citizens amid the confrontation between the regime in Tehran and anti-government protesters.

"It is reiterated that all Indian citizens and PIOs should exercise due caution, avoid areas of protests or demonstrations, stay in contact with the Indian Embassy in Iran and monitor local media for any developments," the Embassy of India in Tehran said, urging all Indian nationals carrying passports and other identification documents to contact the embassy for assistance.

When in need

Indian nationals were also advised to register with the Indian Embassy at meaers.com/request/ home. In view of the Internet shutdown in Iran, families of Indian nationals based in India were advised to reach out to the Indian Embassy and complete the required registration on behalf of their relatives who may be unable to access the Embassy of India website.

The emergency contact helpline numbers of the Indian Embassy, shared through a public notification, are +98-91281 09115, +98-91281 09109, +98-91281 09102 and +98-99321 79359. The embassy can also be contacted by mail at cons.tehran@mea.gov.in.

Govt. warns Meitei, Kuki-Zo groups against flouting pact

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

UNLF-P representatives at the meeting were asked to return looted police weapons by the end of April. FILE PHOTO

After a two-day review of operations of Meitei and Kuki-Zo insurgent groups, officials from the Union Home Ministry (MHA) and the Manipur government have warned the outfits that they will face action if they violate ground rules, a senior government official told *The Hindu*.

The groups were asked to check extortion and confine their cadres in their designated camps.

On Tuesday, a peace monitoring committee chaired by Manipur Chief Secretary Puneet Kumar Goel reviewed the terms of the ceasefire agreement with the United National Liberation Front-Pambei faction (UNLF-P), in Imphal. The UNLF is the oldest armed Meitei insurgent group.

The official said that UNLF-P representatives who attended the meeting were asked to return looted police weapons by the end of April.

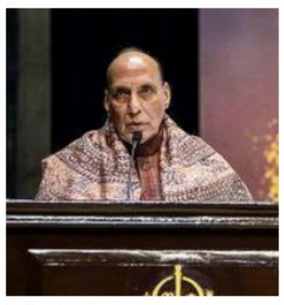
On Wednesday, in Guwahati, a joint monitoring group comprising A.K. Mishra, the Ministry's North-east Adviser, officials from the Intelligence Bureau, and the Manipur government reviewed the ground rules for Kuki-Zo insurgent groups, the United People's Front and Kuki National Organisation (KNO), which are in a Suspension of Operations (SoO) pact with the government.

The meetings were held amid indications that an elected government will soon return to Manipur. The State was placed under President's Rule on February 13, 2025.

It was reiterated to the SoO groups that they must relocate seven designated camps away from areas vulnerable to conflict.

IPKF soldiers finally receiving their due recognition: Rajnath

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI



Rajnath Singh

Nearly four decades after India's peacekeeping mission in Sri Lanka, soldiers of Operation Pawan are finally receiving their due recognition, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday, as he paid tribute to the courage and sacrifices of the Indian Peacekeeping Force on the occasion of the 10th Armed Forces Veterans Day.

Addressing veterans in New Delhi, Mr. Singh recalled the extraordinary courage displayed by the Indian forces deployed in the island nation as part of the IPKF, noting that many laid down their lives in the line of duty. He said that their valour and sacrifices did not receive the respect they deserved at the time of the operation.

"Their valour, sacrifices and struggles did not receive the respect they deserved at that time. Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our government is openly acknowledging the contributions of the peacekeeping soldiers of Operation Pawan at every level," the Defence Minister said. He recalled that the Prime Minister had paid tribute to the fallen soldiers at the IPKF Memorial during his visit to Sri Lanka in 2015, and added that the contributions of the force are now being duly recognised at the National War Memorial in New Delhi.

Mr. Singh attended the main Veteran's Day celebrations at the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantonment, which saw the participation of around 2,500 veterans from Delhi and the National Capital Region.

Paying tributes to former servicemen, Mr. Singh described veterans as the living pillars of national consciousness, symbols of collective courage and an inspiration for future generations.

29 Maoists give up arms in second mass surrender event in a week in Sukma

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

Steady stream: Last week, on January 7, 26 Maoists had surrendered in Sukma district. PTI

In the second mass surrender event in Chhattisgarh's Sukma district over the past week, 29 people, all active as frontal wings of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist), surrendered on Wednesday, according to the police.

On January 7, 26 Maoists had surrendered in Sukma, one of the seven districts of the Bastar region.

The armed cadre of Darbha Division, along with their support system, has now been destroyed, said Sukma Superintendent of Police Kiran Chavan.

"The establishment of a security camp in Gogunda has changed the landscape of the area. After the mass surrender of 29 Maoists, the Keralapal Area Committee is now in the final stages of becoming Naxal-free," he added.

Effective rehab policy

Once the security camp was set up, said Mr. Chavan, "effective anti-Naxal operations, sustained pressure, and intensive search operations in the area resulted in limited Maoist activities, leading to disillusionment among cadres, who chose to surrender".

Under the State government's 2025 rehabilitation policy, surrendered Maoists will each be provided an incentive of ₹50,000 and other facilities so that they can join mainstream society and live a respectable and peaceful life, the police said in a statement.

The benefits of the government's welfare and development are also effectively reaching the innocent and deprived villagers in the area, due to which the faith of the local people in the government and administration has become stronger, Mr. Chavan added.

Security and stability

Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai also welcomed the surrenders, calling it "not just a decision, but a direct evidence of the security, stability and trust being established in the region".

"The resolve of our government is clear, a dignified life, opportunity and a secure future will be ensured for those who want to give up violence and adopt the path of peace and development," he wrote on X.

Government appoints new chiefs for BSF, ITBP and NIA

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) on Wednesday approved the proposal of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to appoint Shatrujeet Singh Kapoor, former Haryana Director General of Police (DGP), as the chief of the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

Mr. Kapur was sent on leave and then relieved of the State DGP charge last year amid the controversy surrounding the suicide of Indian Police Service (IPS) officer Y.S Puram Kumar.

The ACC also approved the appointment of 1993-batch IPS officer of West Bengal cadre, Praveen Kumar, who is at present working as Director General, ITBP, to the post of Director General, Border Security Force (BSF) from the date of assumption of charge of the post and up to September 30, 2030, the date of his superannuation or until further orders.

The ACC approved the posting of 1994-batch IPS officer Rakesh Aggarwal as Director General, National Investigation Agency.

SC to decide today on plea for passive euthanasia of man

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to pass a final order on Thursday in a plea for passive euthanasia by means of withdrawing artificial life support to a 31-year-old man. The judges personally met his parents and siblings, who said they did not want him to suffer anymore.

"All the three, i.e., the father, mother and younger brother, in one voice and with a lot of pain in their hearts, made a fervent appeal before us to take necessary steps to ensure that Harish [Rana] does not suffer any more... According to them, if the medical treatment is not making any difference, then there is no point in continuing with such medical treatment and making Harish suffer for no good reason," a Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K.V. Viswanathan recorded in a 12-page order published on Wednesday.

The court also recorded the submission made by Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, appearing for the Centre, that primary and secondary boards of doctors who visited Harish Rana were also of the opinion that medical treatment should be discontinued and "nature should be allowed to take its own course".

"The doctors are of the opinion that Harish would remain in this permanent vegetative state (PVS) for years to come, with the tubes inserted all over his body. However, he would never be able to recover and live a normal life," the court recounted.

Living in pain

Harish Rana, 31, has been bedridden for 13 years

He had sustained severe head injuries and 100% quadriplegic disability after a fall from the fourth floor of his paying guest accommodation

> According to them [relatives], if the medical treatment is not making any difference, then there is no point in continuing with such medical treatment and making Harish suffer for no good reason
>
> **SUPREME COURT**

The order stated that the judges had met with the parents and Harish's brother for an exhaustive talk about the issue on Tuesday.

Bedridden for 13 years

Harish sustained severe head injuries and 100% quadriplegic disability after falling from the fourth floor of his paying guest accommodation as a Panjab University student in 2013. He has been bedridden for over 13 years now.

The court order reproduced a joint report submitted by Ms. Bhati and the family's counsel, advocate Rashmi Nandakumar. The report said the legal team had met with the parents and family, once through videoconferencing and the second time at their home in Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.

Harish's father, Ashok Rana, narrated to the team the family's years of long care for their son. He said they had done "everything within their human capacity" during this period.

"He said that their son no longer has a voice of his own, and therefore they feel it is their moral responsibility to speak for him... He said his son cannot speak, hear, see, recognise anyone, or eat on his own; Is entirely dependent on artificial life support, including a feeding tube... He shared his deep worry that both parents are now ageing, and asked, with visible concern, who would take care of Mr. Harish if anything were to happen to either of them," the report narrated.

The judges recorded that during the meeting, the parents were clear that the reports of the medical boards found "no sign, or rather, no hope" for Mr. Harish to recover.

29 Maharashtra civic bodies go to the polls; Mumbai is big prize

More than 3.48 crore voters will cast their votes to choose a total of 2,869 corporators from among 15,908 candidates; counting of votes tomorrow

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Gearing up: Of the 39,092 polling stations, 3,196 have been declared sensitive. EMMANUAL YOGINI

More than 3.48 crore voters will cast their ballots on Thursday in elections to 29 municipal corporations, including the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, in Maharashtra. The voters will elect 2,869 corporators from among 15,908 candidates in the polls that follow an intense, high-pitched campaign by all six major political parties in the State.

All eyes are on the Mumbai corporation, the country's richest civic body, where cousins Uddhav Thackeray and Raj Thackeray have reunited after two decades. In all other cities except Mumbai, voters will cast multiple votes for the first time to choose multiple corporators for each ward, under the panel system. In Mumbai, however, voters will have to cast a single vote due to the traditional one-ward-one-corporator model. The counting of votes will be held on Friday.

On Wednesday, Maharashtra State Election Commissioner Dinesh Waghmare held a meeting with representatives of all registered political parties and senior police officials to review poll preparedness.

"Voting arrangement has been made at 39,092 polling booths across the State," a State Election Commission spokesperson said. Of the 3.48 crore voters, 1.81 crore are men, 1.66 crore are women, and 4,596 are other voters. Of the 39,092 polling stations, 3,196 have been declared sensitive. Voting will be conducted on electronic voting machines.

The police have deployed dozens of senior officers, along with 11,938 constables and 42,703 home guards.

Mumbai scene

In Mumbai, 1,700 candidates are in the fray for 227 wards. The Congress is fighting these elections along with Prakash Ambedkar's Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi. The Thackeray cousins have the support of the NCP(SP). While the Shiv Sena (UBT) is contesting 163 seats, the Raj Thackeray party is fighting 53. The NCP(SP) has been given 11 seats. The BJP is fighting for 137 seats, while Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena will contest 90 seats.

The biggest question in Mumbai is the swing of the Marathi vote bank. The Shiv Sena (UBT) anticipates vote division of the minority community and the backward communities due to the split in Maha Vikas Aghadi, while the BJP fears lower voter turnout in Mumbai. While the BJP has been trying to win maximum seats in the city, it has tried to allay Mr. Shinde's fears about the mayoral position, saying numbers will not be the sole criterion to decide the Mumbai mayor.

In Mumbai, the BJP and Shiv Sena have stayed away from their Mahayuti ally NCP, which is fighting the polls independently. In Pune and Pimpri Chinchwad, Ajit Pawar's NCP has joined hands with Sharad Pawar's NCP to fight against the BJP. The ruling allies have been in a bitter war of words over the last few weeks.

Bombay HC upholds unopposed civic wins

Snehal Mutha
MUMBAI

Bombay High Court on Wednesday dismissed a plea challenging the uncontested victories of candidates in the Maharashtra municipal corporation polls on the grounds that the election laws validate candidates who win unopposed.

The petitioner, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena leader Avinash Jadhav, filed a plea opposing the unopposed elected candidates in the elections, pleading that the NOTA option be given in these wards.

Discussions on influential personalities, issues of contemporary relevance, translations and more to animate The Hindu Lit for Life

Radhika Santhanam
CHENNAI

Ready to roll: The festival will engage with the complex political and social issues confronting the world today. FILE PHOTO

Discussions on influential personalities, issues of contemporary relevance, translations, and more will animate The Hindu Lit for Life to be held on the Lady Andal premises in Chennai on Saturday and Sunday.

The festival will feature a rich line-up of conversations on icons who have shaped India's social, political, and intellectual landscape. Congress MP and author Shashi Tharoor will explore the legacy of Sree Narayana Guru, whose ideas challenged entrenched hierarchies and ushered in an era of social reform.

Historian and author A.R. Venkatachalapathy, who has co-edited *The Cambridge Companion to Periyar* with Karthick Ram Manoharan, will explore the enduring relevance of Periyar's life and thought in today's society.

Historian Aparajith Ramnath will speak on M. Visvesvaraya, one of the foremost builders of modern India, drawing from his award-winning biography, *Engineering a Nation*. In the same session, Priyambada Jayakumar will trace the remarkable journey that led M.S. Swaminathan to become the father of the Green Revolution.

In a session centred on her book, *A Woman of No Consequence*, Professor Kalpana Karunakaran will reflect on the extraordinary life of a seemingly ordinary woman, her maternal grandmother, Pankajam.

The festival will also engage with the complex political and social issues confronting the world today. The Former Secretary of the Research and Analysis Wing A.S. Dulat and journalist Ziya Us Salam will participate in a session titled *The Kashmir Connection*.

Journalists Ashutosh and Sobhana K. Nair will assess India's evolving political landscape, and editor and writer Ghazala Wahab will examine the forces shaping contemporary India.

Conversations on migration, displacement, and the search for belonging will feature Amrita Shah, Saras Manickam, and Viji Krishnamoorthy.

With translated works gaining prominence, writer Imayam and Justice Prabha Sridevan (retd.) will reflect on the joys and challenges of translating Imayam's work, in conversation with journalist Kavitha Muralidharan. Professor Chandan Gowda, playwright Gowri Ramnarayan, and translator Vanamala Viswanatha will join publisher and editor Mini Krishnan in discussing the art of carrying stories across languages and cultural landscapes.

Deepa Bhasthi will be in conversation with Nandini Krishnan about how translations bring stories alive for new audiences.

Mental health, personal well-being, and empowerment will be key themes at the festival. Social entrepreneur Neha Kirpal and Dr. Lakshmi Narasimhan will share perspectives on women's mental health journeys, while Amit Bhatt, Avira Bhatt, and Shelja Sen will focus on the mental health of adolescents. Author Manasi Chaudhuri will speak about providing women with accessible information about their rights. Dr. Ambrish Mithal and fitness coach Raj Ganpath will discuss the weight-loss revolution, while Devina Mehra and Rohit Sarin will list out some of the practical strategies needed for building wealth.

The all-new Kia Seltos
Presents
THE HINDU LIT FOR LIFE 2026
THE SHARPEST LITERATURE FESTIVAL IN INDIA
In association with
CHRIST
NITTE

A conversation on memory, language, and the craft of poetry, with poets Ashwani Kumar and K. Srilata, and socio-cultural activist and philanthropist Ranvir Shah, will be followed by the prize-giving ceremony for the Poetry with Prakriti Poetry Contest, 2026. On Sunday, there will be a screening of *Wild Tamil Nadu*, produced by Sundram Fasteners and directed by Kalyan Varma. Art dealer and curator Sharan Apparao will speak on *The Many Lives of the Lotus: Between Sacred History and Contemporary Claims*, engaging with questions of iconography, visual continuity, and cultural transmission through the lotus as both motif and symbol.

The Hindu Lit For Life is presented by the all-new Kia Seltos, in association with Christ University and NITTE. Associate partners: Orchids-The International School, Hindustan Group of Institutions, State Bank of India, IndianOil, Indian Overseas Bank, New India Assurance, Akshayakalpa, United India Insurance, ICFAI Group, Chennai Port Authority and Kamarajar Port Limited, Vajiram & Sons, Life Insurance Corporation of India, and Mahindra University; realty partner: Casagrand; education Partner: SSVM Institutions; State partner: Government of Sikkim; official timekeeping partner: Citizen; regional partner: DBS Bank India Ltd.; tourism partner: Bihar Tourism; bookstore partner: Crossword; and water partner: Repute; and radio partner: Big FM.

Registration link to the festival: newsth.live/litforlife

CPC delegation meets Left leaders in Delhi

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

A delegation of the Communist Party of China (CPC) met leaders of Left parties in New Delhi on Wednesday.

In a post on X, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) said leaders from the Communist Party of India (Marxist), the CPI, and the All India Forward Bloc (AIFB) met the CPC delegation.

"A delegation of the CPC led by Vice-Minister Sun Haiyan met with leaders of Left parties," the CPI(M) said. "CPI(M) leader R. Arun Kumar took part in the meeting, along with CPI general secretary D. Raja and national secretariat member Rama Krushna Panda, and AIFB general secretary G. Devarajan," it added.

The CPC delegation visited the BJP headquarters on Monday. The delegation called on Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale on Tuesday. They also met the Congress's Foreign Affairs Department head, Salman Khurshid, on Tuesday.

Congress targets BJP over China trade surplus

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday cited China's record trade surplus to target the BJP-led government, alleging a policy of "capitulation" towards Beijing.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said China had announced a record trade surplus of $1.2 trillion in 2025. He said India alone accounted for around 10% of that surplus.

"China has just announced that it had a record trade surplus of $1.2 trillion in 2025. This means that its trade surplus with India alone was about 10% of the total," the Congress communication chief said in a post on X.

"It should not be surprising though given our carefully calibrated capitulation to China – an example of which was just seen with the way the BJP and RSS leaders were hobnobbing with a high-level Chinese Communist Party delegation the day before," Mr. Ramesh added.

The remarks come amid persistent Opposition criticism of India's trade dependence on China and the government's handling of bilateral relations, particularly in the backdrop of border tensions and widening trade deficits.

SC to hear ED petition for CBI probe into alleged obstruction of searches

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Turn of events: The ED argues that the intervention of Mamata Banerjee had upset a lawful investigation into coal smuggling. PTI

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear on Thursday a petition filed by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) for a Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) probe into the alleged obstruction of its searches at the offices of the political consultancy firm I-PAC and its co-founder Pratik Jain in Kolkata by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, State officials and other individuals.

The petition is listed before a Bench of Justices Prashant Kumar Mishra and Vipul M. Pancholi.

The ED has arraigned the State of West Bengal, Ms. Banerjee, the State's Director-General of Police, the Kolkata Police Commissioner and the Deputy Commissioner of Police, South Kolkata, along with the CBI. The State has already filed a caveat in the case to forestall the passing of any order by the court without hearing it.

The hearing comes a day after the Calcutta High Court, on Wednesday, disposed of a Trinamool Congress petition after the ED submitted that it had not seized anything from the premises of the I-PAC and Mr. Jain. The ED had blamed Ms. Banerjee for removing records and devices from the sites of the searches. The High Court, however, adjourned the ED plea against the obstruction of its searches after Additional Solicitor-General S.V. Raju, for the Central agency, informed it about the pendency of a similar petition in the Supreme Court.

Ms. Banerjee has countered that the searches were a deliberate attempt to derail the Trinamool Congress ahead of the 2026 Assembly election. The ruling party in the State had consulted with the firm over the past few years. I-PAC had helped the party shape its electoral and political strategy in the 2021 Assembly election and subsequent elections in West Bengal.

The anti-money laundering agency argued that the intervention of the Chief Minister, on the other hand, had upset a lawful investigation into coal smuggling.

Vital evidence, both physical and electronic, connected to the probe was removed and the raids were bulldozed, amounting to a "gross obstruction of justice".

The sites of the searches descended into scenes of a "showdown" through the illegal intervention of the State machinery, the ED has submitted in its petition before the court.

Cong. credits Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra with spotlighting democracy and Constitution

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra during the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra. FILE PHOTO

Marking the second anniversary of the launch of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, the Congress on Wednesday said the nationwide march had played a significant role in placing the protection of democracy and the Constitution at the centre of public discourse, including during the 2024 Lok Sabha election campaign.

Congress general secretary in charge of communications Jairam Ramesh said the yatra, led by Rahul Gandhi, helped foreground concerns relating to constitutional values, democratic institutions and social justice at a time of growing political polarisation.

He recalled that Mr. Gandhi began the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra on January 14, 2024, from violence-affected Manipur and concluded it in Mumbai on March 16, 2024, after covering a distance of nearly 6,600 km over a period of about two months, traversing 15 States.

According to the Congress communications chief, the yatra sought to draw attention to issues of social, economic and political justice, while emphasising unity and constitutional morality.

"It is to the credit of the Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra that the protection of democracy and the Constitution of India became a central feature of the Lok Sabha 2024 election campaign and our public discourse today," Mr. Ramesh said.

'Aimed to counter'

The yatra began amid ethnic violence in Manipur, with Mr. Gandhi asserting at the time that the Congress would present an alternative vision for the country rooted in harmony, fraternity and equality. He had said the march aimed to counter what the party described as divisive politics and an increasing concentration of economic and political power.

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INBRIEF

Delhi HC slams NGO for PIL misuse on encroachments

Terming it a sheer misuse of PIL jurisdiction, the Delhi High Court on Wednesday came down heavily on an NGO for repeatedly filing PIL petitions alleging encroachments by mosques in Delhi. A Division Bench of Chief Justice Devendra Kumar Upadhyaya and Justice Tejas Karia, while hearing two different petitions filed by the Save India Foundation, stated that the organisation was misusing the PIL jurisdiction of the court and only seeing 'selective' issues in society. The Bench pointed out that why the NGO was only concerned for the encroachment of one particular kind. It noted the NGO's frequent filing of similar petitions was "disturbing." The court set January 21 as the next date of hearing.

Editors Guild urges India, Pak. to restore access to news sites

The Editors Guild of India on Wednesday urged the governments of India and Pakistan to lift restrictions on news websites and restore access to cross-border journalism. In a statement, the Guild admitted that there had been instances of media in both the countries crossing bounds of balanced and professional journalism and going overboard with misinformation. "However, while such aberrations and instances of unethical journalism need to be dealt with more conscientiously, blocking all access is not the solution," the Guild said. It said a blanket ban did not expunge ground realities, but only served to build a climate of fear and mistrust. PTI

UGC brings out new rules against caste discrimination

Higher education institutions may lose recognition if they violate the regulations; UGC brings OBCs within the ambit of new rules after their exclusion in the draft version evoked criticism

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Strong measures

The UGC (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, were notified on Tuesday

- Discrimination has been defined as "any unfair, differential, or biased treatment or any such act against any stakeholder, whether explicit or implicit, on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, disability, or any of them"
- Caste-based discrimination means "discrimination only on the basis of caste or tribe against the members of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and Other Backward Classes"
- The new rules specify punishments, which can range from being debarred from offering degrees or programmes, for non-compliance

The University Grants Commission (UGC) has notified new regulations to address caste-based discrimination in higher education institutions across the country. The new rules mandate the setting up of equity committees on campuses and specify punishments, which can range from being debarred from offering degrees or programmes, for non-compliance.

The University Grants Commission (Promotion of Equity in Higher Education Institutions) Regulations, 2026, notified on Tuesday, are an update on the anti-discrimination regulations in place since 2012. A draft version of the updated rules was put out by the UGC for public suggestions in February last year, inviting widespread criticism for the way it kept the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) outside the ambit of caste-based discrimination and the lack of specificity in the way it defined discrimination.

Further, the draft version of the regulations proposed a provision to "discourage" false complaints of discrimination, suggesting fines for such complaints.

In the final notified version of the rules, the UGC has included OBCs within the ambit of "caste-based discrimination" and dropped the provision on false complaints. Further, its definition of "discrimination" has been expanded slightly to include some of the language contained in the 2012 regulations.

In the new regulations, the UGC has said that "caste-based discrimination" means "discrimination only on the basis of caste or tribe against the members of the Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs), and Other Backward Classes". Further, it defines "discrimination" as "any unfair, differential, or biased treatment or any such act against any stakeholder, whether explicit or implicit, on the grounds only of religion, race, caste, gender, place of birth, disability, or any of them".

In borrowing from the definition in the 2012 regulations, the UGC added that "discrimination" would include "any distinction, exclusion, limitation, or preference, which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing equality of treatment in education and, in particular, of imposing conditions on any stakeholder or group of stakeholders that are incompatible with human dignity".

Equity committees

In the new regulations, the UGC mandates the setting up of equal opportunity centres (EOC) in each institution, to promote "equity and equal opportunity to the community at large in the higher education institutions (HEIs) and to bring about social inclusion". Under these, an equity committee is to be formed. These equity committees, chaired by the head of the institution, must have the representation of OBCs, persons with disabilities, SCs, STs, and women, the regulations said.

While the EOC will be expected to submit a bi-annual report of its functioning, the equity committees have been mandated to meet at least twice a year.

The UGC will put in place a monitoring mechanism to review the progress of the implementation of these regulations. It will set up a national-level monitoring committee with representatives of statutory professional councils and commissions, the regulations said.

Two Bengal nurses with Nipah critical; 2 contacts hospitalised

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

Over 120 people who came into contact with the nurses advised to isolate themselves.

Two nurses affected by the Nipah virus continue to be in a critical state in West Bengal. One of them has slipped into a coma and the other is on ventilator support in a private hospital in Barasat where they had been working.

A doctor and a nurse who came into contact with them have been hospitalised after they developed Nipah symptoms, while several others are being screened.

Samples of the two nurses were initially tested at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences-Kalyani on January 11.

Sources told *The Hindu* on Wednesday that the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, had reconfirmed their infection.

Contact tracing on

The doctor and nurse who showed Nipah symptoms were admitted to the Infectious Diseases and Beleghata General Hospital in Kolkata on Wednesday. Their samples are being sent for Nipah tests. The source of the outbreak is not yet known.

So far, over 120 people who came into contact with the two nurses have been advised to isolate themselves. These include hospital staff, family members, and ambulance drivers. Samples from some of the contacts have been sent for testing.

Three co-workers of the nurses have also been taken off duty for now.

Contact tracing is being done actively across the three districts of North 24 Parganas, Bardhaman, and Nadia.

"She came home because of cold and fever. We had no idea what else it could have been," a relative of one of the nurses told mediapersons.

The West Bengal government has launched helpline numbers – 03323330180, 9874708858, 9836046212 – for public queries. The government has advised people not to panic but stay alert and maintain proper hygiene.

18,000 seats remain vacant, NEET-PG cut-off lowered after second round of counselling

Bindu Shajan Perappadan
NEW DELHI

Qualifying percentile cut-off for the third round of NEET-PG this year has been reduced to zero for reserved categories.

More than 18,000 postgraduate medical seats remained vacant in government and private medical colleges across India despite the completion of the second round of counselling, prompting the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) to revise the qualifying percentiles for the postgraduate National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET-PG) 2025 admissions, a senior Health Ministry official told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

The NBEMS, earlier this week, said the qualifying percentile cut-off for the third round of the NEET-PG counselling had been reduced to zero from 40 for reserved categories.

This means that all candidates who appeared for the exam, including those who scored in negative (there is negative marking for wrong answers) are now eligible to take part in counselling.

The cut-off for the general category has been reduced to seven percentile from 50.

The result of the NEET-PG 2025 was declared on August 19, 2025. In accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare issued on January 9, "the minimum qualifying percentile cut-off for counselling of the third round of NEET-PG 2025-26 for various categories of candidates has been reduced", the NBEMS said in an official notice.

Explaining the revision of the qualifying percentile across categories, the Health Ministry source said: "This is to ensure optimal utilisation of available seats, which are vital for expanding India's pool of trained medical specialists. Leaving such seats vacant undermines national efforts to improve healthcare delivery and results in the loss of valuable educational resources."

The source further said that all NEET-PG candidates were MBBS-qualified doctors who had completed their degrees and internships.

"The previous percentile thresholds restricted the pool of eligible candidates despite the availability of seats," the source added.

The Health Ministry has maintained that admissions "remain strictly merit-based, determined by NEET-PG rank and candidate preferences, allotments will be made only through authorised counselling mechanisms; no direct or discretionary admissions are permitted and inter-se merit and choice-based allocation will continue to guide seat distribution."

The Ministry added that there had been no dilution of academic standards as the revised percentile merely expanded eligibility among already-qualified MBBS doctors.

Doctors' reaction

Reacting to the latest revision, Rohan Krishnan, chief patron, FAIMA Doctors Association, said that lowering the NEET-PG qualifying percentile destroyed the credibility of this exam. Another senior doctor on condition of anonymity said, "Dilution at entry is bound to give a substandard product. And here we are talking about specialists... this will be harmful to the health of the society at large."

NGT issues notice to 3 States over contamination of water

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Rajasthan, U.P., M.P. govts. should file their affidavits on contamination of drinking water

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has taken *suo motu* cognisance of "serious health issues" of sewage contamination in drinking water reported in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh, based on multiple news reports.

The NGT's principal Bench, comprising chairperson Prakash Shrivastava and expert member A. Senthil Vel, has issued notices to all three State governments and other agencies to file their affidavits on the matter, according to an official statement.

Affected cities

"The news reports highlight alarming conditions where sewage water has mixed with drinking water pipelines due to corroded and decades-old infrastructure. Cities in Rajasthan including Udaipur, Jodhpur, Kota, Banswara, Jaipur, Ajmer and Bora have reportedly been affected. Photographs accompanying the reports show drinking water pipelines passing through open sewage drains, creating grave health risks," the statement issued on Wednesday said.

The NGT said the news report revealed that in Greater Noida, several residents, including children, fell ill with symptoms such as vomiting and diarrhoea after drinking water got contaminated with sewage.

"Authorities reportedly repaired leaks and distributed medicines; however, residents expressed fear of an Indore-like water contamination tragedy. The same report also noted detection of E-coli bacteria in drinking water in parts of Bhopal, caused by sewage leakage into tube-wells," the statement said.

At least six people died due to vomiting and diarrhoea caused by drinking contaminated water supplied through pipelines in Indore recently.

The court observed that the issues raised involve "serious environmental and public health concerns" and *prima facie* indicate violations of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.

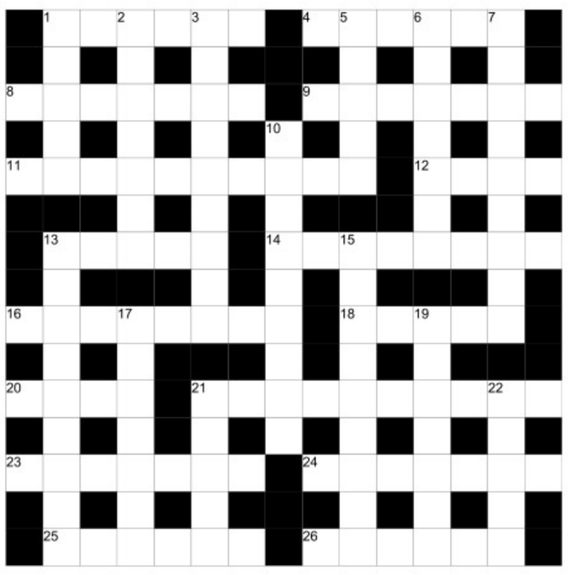
The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has also been directed to file a response.

TH CROSSWORD + 14692

(set by Crossant)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://crossword.thehindu.com*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1. Father cycling in race - it's not hard (6)
4. University boys arrested by centre, causing uproar (6)
8. Coffee maker is behind counter, try Americano to start with (7)
9. Generally American partner controls resources centrally (7)
11. Picked up writing material at the same place (10)
12. Slowly move part of foot (4)
13. "It's dangerous", he sums up (5)
14. Play favourite track entertaining everybody right in the beginning (5,3)
16. Entertaining cricket from both sides, one over to go (8)
18. Doctor, tea or coffee? (5)
20. Fellow with topless model seeking excitement (4)
21. Captivated by overtures from unknown, pretty looking blondes perhaps (10)
23. Is fit after suspicion of damaged hamstring (7)
24. Romantic morning at Gold Valley finally (7)
25. Miss Hermoine will eventually back Harry (6)
26. Associate member of embassy lacking etiquette from the beginning (6)

Down

1. Spread quickly, spread by influencers essentially (5)
2. Trial version put up covers one technical topic initially missed (7)
3. Vessel to serve bit of rice with Indian stew (9)
5. Retract comment supporting French article (5)
6. Bizarre plastic container for coals (7)
7. Accountant from the East enters party with a very American hat (9)
10. Saw what he used ?! (9)
13. A time to switch sides to get praise (9)
15. It's up to management executives basically to check period for completion of task (4,5)
17. Bedtime? Time for cheese perhaps (7)
19. Leaving extremely scenic Costa Rica - fantastic country (7)
21. Shrub in Dallas with top pruned badly (5)
22. Neither partner conceding at that point (5)

SUDOKU

		9			5		7	
1				9				
7		3					9	4
			5		7	3	4	
		2				8		
	9	4	1		3			
9	3					6		7
				6				1
	1		3			4		

No.SS6762 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

3	5	9	1	2	4	7	6	8
1	2	4	8	7	6	3	5	9
7	8	6	9	5	3	4	1	2
8	6	5	4	1	7	9	2	3
2	1	7	5	3	9	6	8	4
4	9	3	2	6	8	5	7	1
9	4	1	7	8	5	2	3	6
5	3	8	6	9	2	1	4	7
6	7	2	3	4	1	8	9	5

FAITH

Harvesting eternal joy

The very image of the cooking of Pongal and chanting "*Pongalo Pongal*" when the dish froths up and spills over the brim is self-explanatory. The ingredients showcase the bounteous nature of Mother Earth as well as the divine grace of Sun who has been worshipped as a God from the 2nd Century BC. Celebrated as a harvest festival by the faithful across the world, it is also the time of the year when the Sun changes direction and travels northwards from the south. The festival is also known as Makar Sankranti, as the Sun transits from Dhanur to Makar rasi (zodiac).

Pongal, falling in Thai, following the month of Margazhi, is a call to all devotees to find their spiritual moorings and realign themselves to the true riches of the world, which is attaining the feet of Perumal, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan. One must focus oneself inwardly, get closer to the divine and overcome the temporal pleasures of this world. In the preceding month of Margazhi, Andal's Tiruppavai, which resonates from every household and temples, guides devotees on the ways by which one can develop *prema bhakti* and seek the ultimate wealth of attaining the feet of the Lord. This is the time of the year when one should (figuratively) burn all the unwanted, negative energies within oneself, symbolised by lighting or taking part, in the Bhogi bonfire.

The concept of togetherness, as recommended by Andal (*koodi irundhu*), is the best dharmic principle, is widely accepted and followed, in the days following Pongal, until Kanum Pongal day, when one seeks the blessings and guidance of elders.

INBRIEF

IOCL, BPCL's exploration arm discover oil in Abu Dhabi

State-owned refiners Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum's exploration arm informed bourses on Wednesday that oil resources have been discovered at Abu Dhabi's Onshore Block 1 through their joint venture Urja Bharat Pte Limited (UBPL). The two refiners hold equal stakes in the joint venture. The Onshore Block 1 was accorded to a joint venture of BPCL and IOCL, Urja Bharat, for exploration and appraisal.

Wholesale price inflation rises to an 8-month high of 0.83%

Wholesale price inflation increased for the second month in a row, rising 0.83% in December 2025, driven by an uptick in prices of food, non-food articles, and manufactured items on a month-on-month basis, government data showed on Wednesday. "Positive rate of inflation in December 2025 is primarily due to an increase in prices of other manufacturing, minerals, manufacture of machinery and equipment, manufacture of food products, and textiles, etc.," the industry ministry said in a statement. PTI

Indian Overseas Bank Q3 net surges 56% to ₹1,365 crore

Public sector lender Indian Overseas Bank reported December quarter net profit increased more than 56% to ₹1,365 crore compared with ₹874 crore in the year earlier on the back of improved performance and asset quality. Retail, agri and MSME (RAM) credit increased 33% YoY and played a major part as total advance rose 24.1% to ₹2.95 lakh crore during the third quarter. Vehicle loan, a key part of retail credit, saw a pick up following the September reduction in GST, MD and CEO Ajay Kumar Srivastava said.

Infosys Q3 net profit dips 2% to ₹6,654 cr.

Tech firm takes a ₹1,289 crore hit as one-time provisions to align with new labour codes: revenue increases 8.89% to ₹45,479 crore

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Infosys on Wednesday reported a 2% year-on-year decline in Q3 net profit at ₹6,654 crore, compared with ₹6,806 crore in the corresponding period a year ago.

The company's revenue grew 8.89% to ₹45,479 crore compared with ₹41,764 crore in Q3 FY25.

The firm also reported a ₹1,289 crore exceptional charge in its Q3 earnings on account of the statutory impact of new labour codes; representing an increase in gratuity and leave liability.

However, enthused by strong market momentum, encouraging deal pipelines and an uptick in AI projects, Infosys has revised its FY26 revenue guidance upward to a range of 3-3.5% from the earlier forecast of 2-3%. Yet, the firm maintained its operating margin guidance in the range of 20-22%.

Report card: Infosys CEO Salil Parekh with CFO Jayesh Sanghrajka during announcement of the Q3 results on Wednesday. PTI

Salil Parekh, CEO and MD Infosys in his market commentary said, "We are seeing a good demand outlook overall with a large pipeline of deals and strong momentum in AI adoption across segments."

On AI growth he said, the company had been witnessing strong momentum across clients and verticals.

In Q3, the company witnessed a TCV (total contract value) of large deals (26 deals) worth $4.8 billion, with net new of 57%. It also reported an adjusted free cash generation at $965 million.

Addressing a press conference here on Wednesday, Jayesh Sanghrajka, CFO, said, "Our performance was broad-based in Q3 with 0.6% sequential revenue growth, 0.2% adjusted operating margin expansion, stellar large deal wins at $4.8 billion and robust adjusted free cash generation in a seasonally weak quarter."

In Q3, Infosys saw its headcount increase by 5,043. The company already hired 18,000 freshers this year and was on track to onboard 20,000 in FY26, it said.

'Global unemployment rate to remain at a historically low level'

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The International Labour Organization (ILO)'s Employment and Social Trends 2026 report, released in Geneva on Wednesday, has warned that the global unemployment rate is projected to remain at the historically low level of 4.9% – equivalent to 186 million people – this year.

The report has found that about 284 million workers still live in extreme poverty with an earning of less than three dollars a day and added that more than two billion workers around the world remain in informal employment.

The report noted that between 2015 and 2025, the share of workers living in extreme poverty declined by only 3.1 percentage points, to 7.9%, compared with a decline of 15 percentage points in the previous decade. "This leaves 284 million workers living in extreme poverty – that is, less than $3.00 a day," it found and that millions of workers around the world still lack access to quality jobs. ILO Director-General Gilbert F. Houngbo said: "Worryingly, the number of working poor and informal workers is rising in low-income countries, highlighting a lack of progress where it is needed most. Gender gaps also remain widespread throughout the world of work, with limited advances in only a few areas, such as the reduction in contributing family work."

Persistent feature

The report, talking about trade uncertainties, said the factor is likely to remain a persistent feature of the global economic landscape, at least in the short term. "These dynamics are unfolding alongside broader processes of structural transformation and digitalisation, which are reshaping trade, supply chains and production systems," the report noted.

The global rate of informality increased by 0.3 percentage points between 2015 and 2025, after having declined in the previous decade.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	83,383	-0.29
US Dollar	90.34	-0.12
Gold	1,46,500	1.03
Brent oil	65.83	0.03

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2153.30	-5.20
Adani Ports	1430.00	1.40
Apollo Hosp	7272.50	-39.00
Asian Paints	2813.90	-72.40
Axis Bank	1298.80	36.80
Bajaj Auto	9579.50	25.50
Bajaj Finserv	2000.90	-10.30
Bajaj Finance	945.95	-3.05
Bharat Elec	417.60	3.90
Bharti Airtel	2022.50	-4.40
Cipla	1434.50	-13.80
Coal India	432.20	3.30
Dr Reddys Lab	1186.50	-4.80
Hindustan Unilever	40.20	0.00
Eicher Motors	7358.00	-46.00
Eternal Ltd.	299.25	4.70
Grasim Ind	2795.80	21.60
HCL Tech	1668.50	3.50
HDFC Bank	925.45	-11.90
HDFC Life	743.20	-5.30
Hindalco	955.35	19.05
Hind Unilever	2353.50	-36.00
ICICI Bank	1418.40	-18.60
IntGlobeAvi	4733.00	-26.50
Infosys	1599.80	0.80
ITC	334.75	0.05
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	287.00	2.40
JSW Steel	1181.80	3.70
Kotak Bank	421.00	-5.52
L&T	3865.80	-21.60
M&M	3649.50	-12.00
Maruti Suzuki	16152.00	-274.00
Max Healthcare	1033.60	5.40
NestleIndia	1307.10	-11.60
NTPC	349.10	11.20
ONGC	248.23	4.45
PowerGrid Corp	258.35	-0.45
Reliance Ind	1458.80	6.00
SBI Life	2068.80	-13.60
State Bank	1028.35	-0.10
Shriram Finance Ltd.	981.10	2.05
Sun Pharma	1700.70	-28.00
TataConsumerProduct	1171.40	-18.00
Tata Steel	189.25	6.68
TCS	3192.50	-75.50
Tech Mahindra	1588.50	-26.30
Titan	4221.50	-17.70
Tata Motors PV	349.80	0.05
Trent Ltd.	3932.20	10.30
UltraTech Cement	12255.00	211.00
Wipro	260.20	-4.00

World Bank raises India GDP growth projection to 7.2% for FY26

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The World Bank has raised India's GDP growth forecast to 7.2% for the current fiscal, up by 0.9 percentage points from its June projections, on the back of robust domestic demand and tax reforms.

In its flagship report "Global Economic Prospects", the World Bank also said growth in India is projected to slow to 6.5% in 2026-27.

The projection is based on the assumption that the 50% import tariffs by the U.S. remain in place throughout the forecast horizon. "Even so, India is expected to maintain the fastest growth rate among the world's largest economies," the report said.

The World Bank further said that despite higher tariffs on certain exports to the U.S., the growth forecast has remained unchanged relative to June projections, primarily because the adverse impacts of those tariffs will be offset by stronger momentum in domestic demand and more resilient exports than previously anticipated.

"Growth is set to inch up to 6.6% in FY2027/28, underpinned by robust services activity, as well as a recovery in exports and a pickup in investment," it added. On the economic growth for the current year, the report said: "In India, growth is estimated to increase to 7.2% in fiscal year (FY) 2025/26 [April 2025 to March 2026], as domestic demand has remained robust, reflecting strong private consumption, supported by earlier tax reforms and improvements in real household earnings in rural areas".

Cotton imports soar in Dec. quarter

India's cotton imports rose 158% year on year to a record 3.1 million bales in the December quarter after New Delhi allowed duty-free imports, boosting overseas purchases, the Mumbai-based Cotton Association of India said on Wednesday. REUTERS

Department of Handlooms
C.H.22., THE TAMILNADU CO-OPERATIVE TEXTILE PROCESSING MILLS LIMITED
428, BHAVANI MAIN ROAD, ERODE-638004. Tel: 0424-2293907. E-mail:tctpmill2015@gmail.com

Ref.No.A/O/1170/2026 E-TENDER NOTICE Date:15.01.2026

E-Tenders with two cover system are invited from eligible bidders for the Supply of Textile Dyes, Processing Chemicals/Auxiliary Chemicals for processing of Cotton as well as Man Made Fabrics for the year 2026-2027 in accordance with terms and conditions detailed in the Tender Schedule.

S. No	Variety of Items	Required Earnest Money Deposit(Rs.)	Required quantity	Date and time availability of Bid document in web portal	Last date and time for receipt of online submission of filled Bid Documents	Date and time of online opening of Bids		Supply period
						Technical Bids	Financial Bids	
1	VAT Dyes	2,00,000	As per the Tender Schedule	15.01.2026 to 16.02.2026 upto 9.30 a.m.	16.02.2026 upto 10.30 a.m	16.02.2026 at 11.30 p.m	Will be intimated later	Upto 31.03.2027 or upto finalisation of next tender whichever is later
2	Disperse Dyes	1,00,000						
3	Chemicals (Group A)	1,00,000						
4	Auxiliaries (Group A)	50,000						
5	Chemicals & Auxiliaries (Group B)	50,000						
6	Chemicals & Auxiliaries (Group C)	25,000						

Eligibility of the Tenderer and other conditions are stipulated in the Bid document.
1. Complete E-Tender Documents can be viewed and downloaded free of cost from the Government tender website **https://tntenders.gov.in**
2. E-Tender Documents: Tender Schedule-I-Supply of Textile Dyes, Processing Chemicals and Auxiliary Chemicals for the year 2026-2027 (S.No.2026- 2027/D&C/001)
3. The Bidders have to participate through online bidding only with Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) of Class III.

DIPR/174/TENDER/2026
Deputy Director / Administrator / Tender Inviting Authority

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
BANGALORE-560 012

IISc/CCMD/Tenders/2025-26 Date: 08.01.2026

Tender Notification- IISc/Tender-CIV-17/2025-26

Indian Institute of Science invites bids in two cover system through e-procurement platform **https://eprocure.gov.in.** Any specialized firms company registered under KPWD /CPWD/ railways/ MES/ central PSUs/ or any Government department of **Class I/Class A Civil Contractors** are eligible to apply for the work of **"Renovation of space allocated for PAIR Network program in 2nd floor of Old SSCU (Annex) and Old IPC Building (C001,C002,C003 and C004) at IISc, Bangalore."** Estimated Cost of Project is **Rs. Rs.38,21,061.00/- Last date of receipt of application is 28th Jan 2026 at 1530Hrs.** Any other details can be obtained from the office of the Centre for Campus Management & Development, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore on all working days or e-mail **office.ccmd@iisc.ac.in**

REGISTRAR

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
Materials Management Department
Auction Programme - February 2026
Notice No: 02/2026

E-Auction will be conducted for disposal of Ferrous scrap, Non-Ferrous scrap, other Misc scrap, condemned Wagon, Coaches & Locos, Scrap Rails and other Permanent Way scrap material,

Sl. No.	E-Auction Conducted By	Date of auction for the month of for February-2026				Material for auction
1	GSD/PER	05/02/26	12/02/26	19/02/26	26/02/26	The details of items to be sold in e-auction will be available in catalogue **www.ireps.gov.in** website
2	CSSD/GOC	04/02/26	11/02/26	18/02/26	25/02/26	
3	SSD/PTJ	03/02/26	10/02/26	17/02/26	24/02/26	
4	MAS Division	04/02/26	18/02/26	25/02/26	-	
5	SA Division	03/02/26	10/02/26	17/02/26	24/02/26	
6	TVC Division	06/02/26	13/02/26	20/02/26	27/02/26	
7	PGT Division	05/02/26	12/02/26	19/02/26	26/02/26	
8	TPJ Division	05/02/26	12/02/26	19/02/26	26/02/26	
9	MDU Division	06/02/26	13/02/26	20/02/26	27/02/26	

Total no. of auction for February 2026 = 35 Nos.
For detailed terms and conditions and downloading of catalogue please visit our web-site **http:// www.ireps.gov.in->E-Auction->Sale->Live Auctions.**

Principal Chief Materials Manager

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, धन्वंतरि नगर, पुदुच्चेरी / Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry- 605 006
Phone: 0413-2296022 Email id: contractfaculty@jipmer.ac.in

Advertisement No. SR/1/1-2026/ADMN.I

ROLLING ADVERTISEMENT FOR THE POST OF SENIOR RESIDENT ON REGULAR BASIS AT JIPMER, PUDUCHERRY/KARAIKAL - JAN 2026

Online applications through Google Form are invited by the Director, JIPMER from eligible Indian citizens as per Govt. of India's Residency Scheme for filling up the posts of **Senior Resident (Non-Academic 3-year tenure posts)** in various departments at JIPMER, Puducherry (including JIPMER, Karaikal vacancies). It includes current vacancies, backlog vacancies of SC/ST & OBC & Anticipated vacancies that will arise till **28.02.2026.** Subject wise details of posts can be seen on the Institute website.

Online Registration through Google Form	
Opens on: 16.01.2026	Closes on: 03.02.2026
Tentative Interview Dates	
09.02.2026, 10.02.2026 &11.02.2026	

Important: For prospectus, number of posts, eligibility criteria, detailed information etc. please visit the website **www.jipmer.edu.in.** All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/Addendum/Updates will be uploaded in the website only.

DIRECTOR

GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL
HIDCO
West Bengal Housing Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Undertaking)
HIDCO BHABAN, Premises No. 35-1111, Biswa Bangla Sarani, 3rd Rotary, New Town, Kolkata-700156

Memo No. C – 21(1) / HIDCO / Admn - 4465 /2026 Date 13.01.2026

Abridged Notice for e-Auction

e-Auction ID & Dt.	PLOT NO.	PLOT SIZE	PURPOSE	E-AUCTION DATE	LAST DATE OF APPLICATION
2026_WB_5319 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB-44 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.258 Acres	Residential	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5320 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB-67 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.345 Acres	Residential	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5321 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB-280 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.494 Acres	Residential	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5322 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB-807 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.513 Acres	Residential	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5323 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB-1121 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.587 Acres	Residential	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5324 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB-1136 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.522 Acres	Residential	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5325 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB-1348 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.496 Acres	Residential	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5326 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB-1484 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.550 Acres	Residential	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5327 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB-1507 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.490 Acres	Residential	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5328 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO. IIB-1541 IN ACTION AREA II OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.480 Acres	Residential	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.
2026_WB_5329 Dt. 13.01.2026	PLOT NO.CC-1 IN ACTION AREA I OF NEW TOWN, KOLKATA	0.30 Acres	Commercial	12.02.2026	05.02.2026 up to 14:00 hrs.

For details, please visit https://eauction.gov.in

ICA-T1123(4)/2026

ARMED FORCES TRIBUNAL
Principal Bench,
West Block-VIII, Sector-1,
R.K. Puram,
New Delhi -110066

Applications are invited for the following posts on deputation basis in Armed Forces Tribunal, Regional Benches:-

(1) **Registrar in Pay Level-13 in Regional Benches, Kolkata, Guwahati, Mumbai, Lucknow, Jaipur and Chandigarh.**
(2) **Joint Registrar in Pay Level-12 in Regional Benches, Lucknow and Chandigarh.**

For further details, kindly visit web site www.aftdelhi.nic.in

(Sunil Kumar Sharma)
Deputy Registrar (A)

Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited
(Wholly Owned State Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U40010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP Platform)

BESCOM invites tenders through kpp-procurement platform from eligible Bidders for **"Procurement of Tool Kit as per Tender Specifications." Vide Enquiry/Indent No.: BESCOM/2025-26 /IND0192.**

Bid Documents available from: **16.01.2026.** Last date for submission of Bids: **16.02.2026, 17:00 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document: **17.02.2026, 17:15 Hrs.**

The Tender can be obtained through KPP portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring Bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take assistance with KPPP helpdesk contact numbers **91-80460 10000, +91-80689 48777** or e-mail at **support@eprochelpdesk.com.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/-, Chief General Manager (Ele.), Procurement, BESCOM.

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POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from the manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/sole agents on the prescribed form for below mention items for two years

Sr. No.	Name of Drug/Material	Due Date	Opening Date
1.	Inj. Sodium Bicarbonate IV 7.5% or 8.4% W/V, 25ml amp	13.02.2026 upto 12:30PM	13.02.2026 upto 03:00 PM

The tender will be opened at Committee Room attached to the office of Medical Superintendent, Nehru Hospital, PGIMER Chandigarh.
Details of Tender Notice & Tender Form are available at our website **pgimer.edu.in** & **eprocure.gov.in**.

Officer In-charge(HPD)
Proc. Drugs & Dressing
PGI/RC/Advt./2026/HR-026

POSTGRADUATE INSTITUTE OF MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH CHANDIGARH

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from the manufacturers or their sole authorized distributors/sole agents on the prescribed form for below mention items for two years

Sr. No.	Name of Drug/Material	Due Date	Opening Date
1.	Desflurane 240ml bottle USP	11.02.2026 upto 12:30PM	11.02.2026 at 03:00 PM

The prebid meeting for above said drug is scheduled to be held on dated 28.01.2026 at 03:00PM in the committee Room attached to office of Medical Superintendent, Nehru Hospital, PGIMER Chandigarh.
The tender will be opened at Committee Room attached to the office of Medical Superintendent, Nehru Hospital, PGIMER Chandigarh.
Details of Tender Notice & Tender Form are available at our website **pgimer.edu.in** & **eprocure.gov.in**.

Officer In-charge(HPD)
Proc. Drugs & Dressing
PGI/RC/Advt./2026/HR-028

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LITERARY TRIVIA CHALLENGE

Thank You
to all our readers for enthusiastically participating in the Literary Trivia Challenge

Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Salman Rushdie
2. The Famous Five
3. The War of the Worlds

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Mithun Singh, Faridabad
2. Salma Shaji, Trivandrum
3.Renijoe.A, Coimbatore

COLOMBO

Violence against Tamils during Sri Lanka conflict unaddressed: UN

AFP

A UN report said that sexual violence by Sri Lankan security forces against Tamil civilians during the civil war remains unaddressed 17 years after the fighting ended. It urges the government to ensure accountability, acknowledge past abuses, support survivors, and implement reforms to end impunity and provide justice. PTI

DHAKA

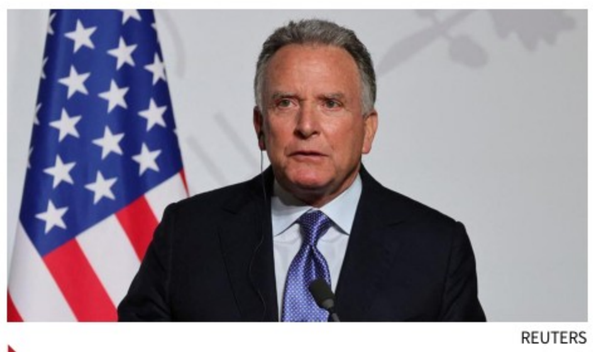
Election campaign in Bangladesh to start from Jan. 22 amid security

AFP

Election campaign in Bangladesh will start from January 22 amidst tight security, a senior official said on Wednesday. Bangladesh will hold the general elections on February 12, its first since the ouster of the Sheikh Hasina-led Awami League government in a violent student-led protest in August 2024. PTI

WASHINGTON

Gaza 'Phase Two' beginning with goal of Hamas demilitarisation: U.S.



REUTERS

U.S. envoy Steve Witkoff announced on Wednesday Phase Two of President Trump's 20-Point Plan to end the Gaza war, focusing on Hamas disarmament, technocratic governance, and reconstruction. A 15-member Palestinian committee will manage post-war Gaza. The U.S. warned Hamas "to comply fully with its obligations". AFP

TOKYO

Japan's PM Takaichi to dissolve Parliament for snap election

AFP

Japan's Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi intends to dissolve the lower house for a snap election soon after a parliamentary session begins next week, her ruling party said on Wednesday. Ms. Takaichi was appointed Japan's first woman Prime Minister in October and her Cabinet is enjoying an approval rating of around 70%. AFP

Trump revives Greenland threat, says U.S. needs it for 'vital security'

'NATO becomes far more formidable and effective with Greenland in the hands of the United States. Anything less than that is unacceptable,' says Trump; Greenland Prime Minister Nielsen says the island would choose Denmark over the U.S.

Stanly Johny

U.S. President Donald Trump on Wednesday reiterated his threat to take control of Greenland, a self-governing Danish island of some 57,000 people, saying it is "vital" for America's national security.

"The United States needs Greenland for the purpose of National Security. It is vital for the Golden Dome that we are building. NATO should be leading the way for us to get it," Mr. Trump wrote in a social media post, referring to the multi-layer missile defence system the U.S. has proposed to develop.

Vivian Motzfeldt and Lars Loekke Rasmussen at Denmark's embassy, ahead of talks with the U.S, in Washington on Wednesday. AFP

"If we don't [take over Greenland], Russia or China will, and that's not going to happen. Militarily, without the vast power of the United States... NATO would not be an effective force or deterrent - Not even close! NATO becomes far more formidable and effective with Greenland in the hands of the United States," added Mr. Trump. "Anything less than that is unacceptable," Mr. Trump insisted. Mr. Trump's repeated remarks have triggered concerns among European powers as Denmark is one of the founding members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Mr. Trump's pledge to annex Greenland threatens the collective security principle of NATO.

Danish Foreign Minister Lars Lokke Rasmussen and his Greenlandic counterpart Vivian Motzfeldt are in the U.S. to hold talks with Secretary of State Marco Rubio and Vice President Vance on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Greenland's Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen said in a joint press conference with his Danish counterpart in Copenhagen that the island would choose Denmark over the U.S. if it was asked to make such a choice.

Greenland's location between North America and the Arctic makes it strategically placed for early warning systems in the event of missile attacks, and for monitoring vessels in the region. The island also has vast untapped resources. Greenland is estimated to have 36 million tonnes of rare earths – an area which is currently dominated by China.

Some personnel at U.S. base in Qatar advised to evacuate

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

Some personnel at a key U.S. military base in Qatar have been advised to evacuate by Wednesday evening, a U.S. official said. The decision came as a senior official in Iran brought up an earlier Iranian attack there.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive plans, described the move at the base as a precautionary measure. The official wouldn't go into any further details about the move, including whether the evacuation was optional or mandatory, if it affected troops or civilian personnel, or the number of those advised to leave, citing the need for operational security.

Satellite image of Al Udeid Air Base near Doha, Qatar. AP

In response, Qatar said on Wednesday that such measures were being "undertaken in response to the current regional tensions".

"The IMO reaffirms that the State of Qatar continues to implement all necessary measures to safeguard the security and safety of its citizens and residents as a top priority, including actions related to the protection of critical infrastructure and military facilities," Qatar's media office said in a post on X.

Separately, the *i* newspaper reported that Britain was withdrawing some personnel from an air base in Qatar ahead of possible strikes by the United States, mirroring similar moves by the United States at bases in the West Asia.

Kyiv orders children to be evacuated from five frontline villages

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Kyiv on Wednesday announced the mandatory evacuation of children from several villages in the southern Zaporizhzhia region, pointing to a dangerous uptick in fighting and recent Russian gains.

The industrial region is one of four that Russia claims to have annexed since launching its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

"We made a difficult but necessary decision – to mandate the evacuation of children together with their parents or legal guardians from five settlements in the Zaporizhzhia region," Oleksiy Kuleba, a Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine said.

Oleksiy Kuleba

Ukrainian authorities routinely urge residents of frontline areas to flee, but mandatory evacuation notices indicate that the safety of an impacted area has sharply deteriorated.

U.S. names several Muslim Brotherhood chapters as 'terrorists'

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

The United States on Tuesday designated the Muslim Brotherhood branches in Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan as terrorist organisations, fulfilling a long demand of Arab allies and U.S. conservatives.

Founded in 1928 in Egypt, the pan-Islamist movement once spread across the Muslim world, but it has been in retreat as it comes under concerted pressure from Arab powers.

"These designations reflect the opening actions of an ongoing, sustained effort to thwart Muslim Brotherhood chapters' violence and destabilisation wherever it occurs," Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement.

Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said the Muslim Brotherhood "has a longstanding record of perpetuating acts of terror, and we are working aggressively to cut them off from the financial system".

The designations mean that the United States will block any assets owned by the Muslim Brotherhood in the world's largest economy, criminalise transactions with its members and severely impede their ability to travel to the country.

The Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood vowed to seek legal channels to challenge the decision.

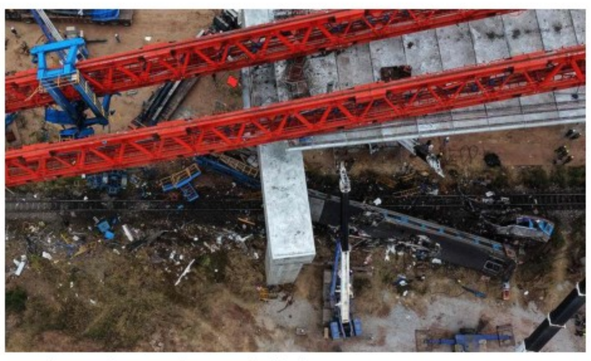
Construction crane falls onto moving train in Thailand, killing at least 32

Associated Press
NAKHON RATCHASIMA

A construction crane crashed onto a moving passenger train in northeastern Thailand on Wednesday, triggering a derailment that killed at least 32 people and injured dozens more.

The crash occurred in Nakhon Ratchasima, some 200 km northeast of Bangkok, on a section of a planned high-speed rail project that is intended to eventually connect China with much of Southeast Asia.

The province's Public Health Provincial Office said there were 32 fatalities and 64 injured victims, including seven with severe injuries. There were still three passengers missing among the 171 believed to have been on board the train, it said in a statement issued as night fell.



Wreckage of a train that crashed when a construction crane collapsed in Thailand's Nakhon Ratchasima on Wednesday. AFP

Authorities said the crane was being used to build an elevated part of the railway when it fell as the train was travelling from the capital, Bangkok, to Ubon Ratchathani province.

Thailand's Rail Transport Department said the crane was what is called a launching gantry crane, a self-supporting structure with vertical legs that usually runs on rails or wheels for mobility, allowing it to progress along with the construction project that it straddles.

Operations suspended

Anan Phonimdaeng, acting governor of the State Railway of Thailand, said the project's contractor is Italian-Thai Development, with a Chinese company responsible for design and construction supervision. He said he ordered the contractor to suspend operations at the site until the investigation of the accident is completed. Damage to the train was estimated to be more than 100 million baht ($3.2 million).

POLE POSITION

Kohli reclaims No. 1 ranking among ODI batters; Rohit slips to third

VIJAY SONEJI

Virat Kohli has reclaimed the top spot in the ICC ODI rankings for batters, replacing Rohit Sharma, after scoring a half-century against New Zealand in the first match of the three-game series against New Zealand. This marks his return to the No. 1 position for the first time since July 2021, while Rohit has slipped to third spot.

RACING AHEAD

Kohli becomes India's highest run-scorer against NZ in ODIs

VIJAY SONEJI

Star batter Virat Kohli's became India's leading run-getter against New Zealand in ODIs during his knock of 23 in the second match in Rajkot. He went past Sachin Tendulkar's tally of 1,750 runs in 42 matches. Kohli is the second highest run-getter against the Kiwis in ODIs behind Australian Ricky Ponting (1,971 in 51 matches).

SATISFYING

Sharing the partnership with Mitchell was great fun, says Young

VIJAY SONEJI

It was satisfying to win and sharing that partnership with Daryl was great fun. We didn't know it was a record chase. After scoring 300 in the first game, we actually thought 285 good. It gave us the chance to soak up pressure at times and put it back on India at other times — Will Young, after match-winning partnership with Daryl Mitchell.

THE MIX

First-timer Canada announces 15-member squad for T20 WC

ICC

The Canada squad for the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup: Dilpreet Bajwa (Capt.), Ajayveer Hundal, Ansh Patel, Dilon Heyliger, Harsh Thaker, Jaskarandeep Buttar, Kaleem Sana, Kanwarpal Tathgur, Navneet Dhaliwal, Nicholas Kirton, Saad Bin Zafar, Ravinderpal Singh, Shivam Sharma, Shreyas Movva and Yuvraj Samra.

Mitchell magic on display as New Zealand levels the series

The batter's eighth ODI hundred and his big partnership with Young help the visiting team romp home; Rahul's century in vain; the Kiwi bowlers trigger a mid-innings collapse to keep the India batters in check

NZ IN INDIA

Amol Karhadkar
RAJKOT

K.L. Rahul ended his 26-month drought for an ODI hundred. But Daryl Mitchell not only overhauled Rahul's tally (an unbeaten 112) but also earned vital support from Will Young at the other end. The duo set up a convincing seven-wicket win for New Zealand against India in the second ODI at the Niranjan Shah Stadium here that kept the three-match series alive heading into Sunday's decider.

Riding on Mitchell's eighth hundred (131 not out) and his 162-run partnership for the third wicket with Young, New Zealand overhauled the target of 285 with 15 balls to spare.

When Mitchell joined Young at the crease in the 13th over, India's pacers had dominated the Power-Play and kept the Kiwis in check. Mohammed Siraj and Harshit Rana, especially, targeted the stumps to keep Devon Conway in check and didn't give any room for Henry Nicholls to free his arms before the duo ran out of patience.

But Mitchell charged down the wicket to tonk Kuldeep Yadav for a six in the spinner's first over and Kuldeep preferred to bowl flatter for the rest of the evening. With Ravindra Jadeja also being largely ineffective, Mitchell and Young took control and the target never looked out of reach.

Soon after Prasidh Krishna dropped Mitchell at long-on, Young perished in an attempt to hit Kuldeep out of the park. The damage was done by then. Glenn Phillips batted seamlessly in dewy conditions before Mitchell finished the game off displaying his innovative strokeplay.

While Mitchell and Young kept the Kiwis in control, Rahul struggled for able support. He took guard in the 22nd over after a spree of soft dismissals. Rohit Sharma (unable to clear the field off a slower ball by Kristian Clarke), Shubman Gill (top-edged an attempted pull off Jamieson) and Shreyas Iyer (lofted a fuller one from Clarke straight to mid-off) were gone. In Clarke's next over, Virat Kohli joined the club by playing one on to his stumps.

A scratchy Ravindra Jadeja helped Rahul stabilise the innings but he couldn't afford to take too many risks with Jadeja struggling to either clear the field or rotate strike consistently. Only after Jadeja offered captain Michael Bracewell, the pick of the bowlers who bowled a tidy spell, did Rahul decide to start opening his shoulders.

After crossing the fifty towards the fag end of the second PowerPlay, Rahul cut loose in the last 10.

He hammered 60 runs off the 39 balls he faced as India added 85 in the last 10 overs. The manner in which he went after debutant Jayden Lennox, the left-arm spinner, and the pacers through covers and behind the bowlers' arm was a delight to watch. His only six - a lofted drive off a low full-toss by Jamieson, helped him complete his first ODI hundred since the 2023 World Cup.

Rahul celebrated the milestone with a gesture to dedicate it to his 10-month-old daughter, but Mitchell and Young ensured the Indian camp had little to celebrate by the end of the game.

All class: Rahul's ton was upstaged by Mitchell's unbeaten 131, which powered the Kiwis to victory. VIJAY SONEJI

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Rohit Sharma c Young b Clarke 24 *(38b, 4x4)*, Shubman Gill c Mitchell b Jamieson 56 *(53b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli b Clarke 23 *(29b, 2x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c Bracewell b Clarke 8 *(17b)*, K.L. Rahul (not out) 112 *(92b, 11x4, 1x6)*, Ravindra Jadeja c & b Bracewell 27 *(44b, 1x4)*, Nitish Kumar c Phillips b Foulkes 20 *(21b, 1x6)*, Harshit Rana c Bracewell b Lennox 2 *(4b)*, Mohammed Siraj (not out) 2 *(3b)*; Extras (lb-2, nb-1, w-7): 10; Total (for seven wkts. in 50 overs): 284.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-70 (Rohit, 12.2 overs), 2-99 (Gill, 16.5), 3-115 (Shreyas, 21.3), 4-118 (Kohli, 23.3), 5-191 (Jadeja, 38.1), 6-248 (Nitish, 46.2), 7-256 (Harshit, 47.2).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING
Jamieson 10-2-70-1, Foulkes 9-0-67-1, Clarke 8-0-56-3, Lennox 10-0-42-1, Bracewell 10-1-34-1, Phillips 3-0-13-0.

NEW ZEALAND
Devon Conway b Harshit 16 *(21b, 3x4)*, Henry Nicholls b Prasidh 10 *(24b)*, Will Young c Nitish b Kuldeep 87 *(98b, 7x4)*, Daryl Mitchell (not out) 131 *(117b, 11x4, 2x6)*, Glenn Phillips (not out) 32 *(25b, 2x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-5, w-5): 10; Total (for three wkts. in 47.3 overs): 286.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-22 (Conway, 5.2), 2-46 (Nicholls, 12.4), 3-208 (Young, 37.6).

INDIA BOWLING
Siraj 9-0-41-0, Harshit 9.3-1-52-1, Prasidh 9-0-49-1, Nitish 2-0-13-0, Jadeja 8-0-44-0, Kuldeep 10-0-82-1.

Toss: NZ.
PoM: Mitchell.
New Zealand won by seven wickets with 15 balls to spare. Series tied 1-1.
Third ODI: January 18, Indore, 1.30 p.m.

Capitals pull off a last-ball victory over Warriorz

Fast start: Capitals' opener Lee notched up a quick-fire 67 off just 44 balls. EMMANUAL YOGINI

WPL-4

Shayan Acharya
NAVI MUMBAI

Shafali Verma hadn't bowled a single over in the Women's Premier League before this season. But after she was introduced into the attack against UP Warriorz on Wednesday, Shafali quietly went about her business, claiming two wickets in her four overs and conceding just 16 runs.

After her fine spell restricted Warriorz to 154 for eight, Shafali scored a 32-ball 36 and forged a 94-run opening partnership with Lizelle Lee (67) to help Delhi Capitals get its campaign back on track with a seven-wicket win.

While fans were deprived of watching Shafali in action as the fixture was played behind closed doors, the seasoned campaigner lit up D.Y. Patil Stadium with her all-round performance.

As small targets can be dicey, a solid game plan and clear role definitions are crucial. With the seasoned Lee bringing up her second consecutive fifty, Capitals dominated.

While a cautious Shafali held fort at one end, the hard-hitting Lee took the Warriorz bowlers to the cleaners before eventually falling to Deepti Sharma after a 44-ball knock that contained eight fours and three sixes.

Thereafter, Capitals dragged the game till the end and nearly fluffed another chase. They needed six off the final over, but Laura Wolvaardt (25 not out) remained calm and guided the team home.

The evening, however, belonged to Shafali.

Earlier, despite losing Kiran Navgire early on, Warriorz rode on captain Meg Lanning's 38-ball 54 to add 85 runs for the third wicket with Harleen Deol (47).

However, Shafali proved to be the game-changer as she bowled 14 dot balls and slowed things down. As the pressure mounted, Lanning holed out to deep square leg off a Nandani Sharma delivery, triggering Warriorz' collapse.

Reining them in: Shafali put the brakes on Warriorz' innings with a niggardly spell of two for 16 in her four overs. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Bizarre call

Adding to their woes, the team management made a bizarre decision in the next over by choosing to 'retire out' Harleen, who missed out on a half-century by three runs.

The move backfired as Chloe Tryon fell for a three-ball one. As Shafali and Sneh Rana tightened the noose, the Warriorz' middle order fumbled and could just score 24 runs in the last five overs.

SCOREBOARD

UP WARRIORZ
Kiran Navgire c Shafali b Kapp 0 *(3b)*, Meg Lanning c Henry b Nandani 54 *(38b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Phoebe Litchfield st. Lee b Sneh 27 *(20b, 5x4)*, Harleen Deol (retired out) 47 *(36b, 7x4)*, Shweta Sehrawat c Shree Charani b Shafali 11 *(12b, 1x4)*, Chloe Tyron c Niki b Shree Charani 1 *(3b)*, Sophie Ecclestone lbw b Kapp 3 *(5b)*, Asha Sobhana (not out) 1 *(1b)*, Deepti Sharma c Sneh b Shafali 2 *(2b)*, Shikha Pandey (not out) 2 *(1b)*; Extras (nb- 1, w- 5): 6; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs) 154.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-0 (Kiran, 0.3 overs), 2-47 (Litchfield, 6.1), 3-132 (Lanning, 15.3), 4-141 (Harleen, 16.6), 5-143 (Tyron, 17.4), 6-148 (Ecclestone, 18.6), 7-150 (Shweta, 19.3), 8-152 (Deepti, 19.5).

CAPITALS BOWLING
Kapp 4-1-24-2, Minnu 1-0-16-0, Henry 2-0-20-0, Nandani 3-0-29-1, Sneh 2-0-20-1, Shree Charani 4-0-29-1, Shafali 4-0-16-2.

DELHI CAPITALS
Shafali Verma c Deepti b Asha 36 *(32b, 6x4)*, Lizelle Lee c Kiran b Deepti 67 *(44b, 8x4, 3x6)*, Laura Wolvaardt (not out) 25 *(24b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Jemimah Rodrigues c Harleen b Deepti 21 *(14b, 3x4)*, Marizanne Kapp (not out) 5 *(6b, 1x4)*; Extras (lb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 158.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-94 (Shafali, 11.3), 2-114 (Lizelle, 14.4), 3-148 (Jemimah, 18.5).

WARRIORZ BOWLING
Kranti 2-0-10-0, Shikha 4-0-22-0, Ecclestone 4-0-44-0, Tryon 3-0-35-0, Asha 4-0-20-1, Deepti 3-0-26-2.

Toss: Capitals.
Delhi Capitals won by seven wickets with zero deliveries remaining.

Thursday's match
MUMBAI INDIANS vs UP WARRIORZ
Navi Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **7**
MI **5** | UPW **2**

Friday's match
GUJARAT GIANTS vs RCB
Navi Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **6**
GG **3** | RCB **3**

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 & JIOHOTSTAR

Formidable Team India eyes sixth crown

U-19 WORLD CUP

Press Trust of India
BULAWAYO

Favourite India will look to flaunt its superabundance of talent as it begins the quest for a record-extending sixth under-19 World Cup title with what is expected to be a rather easy outing against the USA in the ICC showpiece beginning here on Thursday.

Spearheading the Indian challenge will be Vaibhav Suryavanshi, skipper Ayush Mhatre, vice-captain Vihaan Malhotra, and top-order player Aaron George.

Having missed the three-match ODI series against South Africa in the build-up to the tournament with injuries, Mhatre and Malhotra have returned to the squad.

As far as pace bowling is concerned, pacer Deepesh Devendran could be the X-factor for the side.

India is placed in Group B alongside New Zealand, USA, and Bangladesh.

After the game against USA, India will face Bangladesh on January 17 and New Zealand on Jan. 24 at Queen's Sports Club in Bulawayo. Zimbabwe and Namibia are jointly hosting the 16-team tournament, which includes surprise entries such as Tanzania and Japan.

Lancers go top of the table; Boon scores five as Royals rout Pipers

HIL – MEN

Sports Bureau
RANCHI

Alexander Hendrickx scored a goal in the 40th minute to help Vedanta Kalinga Lancers post a 1-0 win against Hyderabad Toofans and maintain its unbeaten run in the Men's Hockey India League here on Wednesday. The victory took Lancers to the top of the table.

In the other match, Ranchi Royals rode on Tom Boon's five goals to post a crushing 6-2 win against SG Pipers. The Royals roared back after trailing 1-2 as Boon went on a scoring spree, first helping the team level before adding three more to his tally. The victory took Royals to fourth place in the standings while Pipers lie seventh after suffering their second loss in four games.

Point of difference: Hendrickx scored the lone goal for Lancers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Vedanta Kalinga Lancers 1 (Hendrickx 40) bt Hyderabad Toofans 0; Ranchi Royals 6 (Mandeep 13, Boon 17, 40, 41, 50 & 60) bt SG Pipers 2 (Domene 20, Furlong 39).

INBRIEF

Amateur Jordan Smith wins 'One Point Slam', A$1 million

Jordan Smith, an amateur tennis player from Sydney, walked away with a cheque worth A$1 million after winning the 'One Point Slam' ahead of the Australian Open. The showdown pitted amateurs against an elite field of 24 professionals, which included the likes of Carlos Alcaraz, Jannik Sinner and Iga Swiatek. Smith, who qualified as the New South Wales State champion, got the better of Sinner and Amanda Anisimova, before beating Joanna Garland in the final.

Yuki-Goransson pair in ASB Classic semifinals

Top seeds Yuki Bhambri and Andre Goransson overcame Czechia's Patrik Rikl and Petr Nouza 6-3, 6-7(3), [10-6] to enter the doubles semifinals at the ASB Classic in Auckland on Wednesday.

Manchester United appoints Carrick as interim manager

Manchester United confirmed Michael Carrick as interim manager until the end of the season on Tuesday, tasking him with leading the Red Devils back into the Champions League. "Having the responsibility to lead Manchester United is an honour," said Carrick, 44.

In-form Karnataka faces Vidarbha for spot in final

Padikkal, skipper Agarwal will aim to power the defending champion again as another batting feast is on the cards; Punjab to battle it out with Saurashtra in the other last-four contest

HAZARE TROPHY

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

Purple patch: The prolific Padikkal will look to continue his good form. K. MURALI KUMAR

In a repeat of last year's final, Karnataka will take on Vidarbha in the first of the 2025-26 Vijay Hazare Trophy semi-finals at the BCCI Centre of Excellence near here on Thursday.

Mayank Agarwal & Co., the defending champions, have been at their marauding best this campaign, winning six of seven group-stage matches and recording a convincing 55-run triumph over Mumbai (via VJD method) in the quarterfinals.

Devdutt Padikkal's tournament-leading 721 runs, studded with four centuries and two half-centuries, have been instrumental in this run.

Vidarbha has played just a notch below, winning five of seven preliminary contests and registering an impressive 76-run victory over Delhi in the last eight.

The outfit may not have last edition's best batter Karun Nair (779 runs) amongst its ranks anymore, but it has been propelled by Aman Mokhade (643 runs), Dhruv Shorey (468) and another Karnataka import in R. Samarth (351). In fact, Karnataka and Vidarbha have been the perfect embodiments of the high-scoring nature of this season's competition. Karnataka has totalled above 320 four times while Vidarbha has made 300 or more in five of the eight matches. Another batting feast is very much on the cards.

The second last-four clash will pit Punjab against Saurashtra on Friday. For the former, captain Prabhsimran Singh impressed with a 86-ball 88 in the 183-run thrashing of Madhya Pradesh in the quarters.

Punjab's success was a wholesome team effort, with four half-centurions - including Anmolpreet Singh, who has tallied 427 runs - helping amass 345 and four bowlers taking two or more wickets.

Saurashtra has been in excellent form too, putting up scores of 349 and 383 in the last two group victories, and conjuring another fine performance against Uttar Pradesh to enter the semifinal.

Skipper Harvik Desai's century (100 n.o.) was the highlight of that 17-run win (via VJD method), and Saurashtra's top-scorer this edition (497 runs) will want to extend his purple patch.

Interestingly, only one bowler from the four semi-finalists figures in the top-10 wicket-takers' list - Saurashtra medium-pacer Ankur Panwar with 19 scalps at 21.78 and an economy rate of 5.84. It has been an out-and-out batters' competition. Even some moderately tight bowling can thus prove match-winning.

Rewarding the best: Alcaraz and Sabalenka. AFP & REUTERS

Alcaraz, Sabalenka get top billing

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Associated Press
MELBOURNE

Top-ranked Carlos Alcaraz and Aryna Sabalenka were given the pride of place in the seedings for the Australian Open, which begins on Sunday at Melbourne Park. The announcement on Wednesday comes a day ahead of the tournament draw.

Two-time defending champion Jannik Sinner was seeded second, with Alexander Zverev third and 10-time champion Novak Djokovic fourth. Sabalenka, Iga Swiątek and Coco Gauff are the top three seeds in the women's draw for the second consecutive year.

Madison Keys returns as the defending champion and the ninth-seeded player, one of four American women among the top 10 seeds.

The seeds (top 10):

Men: 1. Carlos Alcaraz, 2. Jannik Sinner, 3. Alexander Zverev, 4. Novak Djokovic, 5. Lorenzo Musetti, 6. Alex de Minaur, 7. Felix Auger-Aliassime, 8. Ben Shelton, 9. Taylor Fritz, 10. Alexander Bublik.

Women: 1. Aryna Sabalenka, 2. Iga Swiatek, 3. Coco Gauff, 4. Amanda Anisimova, 5. Elena Rybakina, 6. Jessica Pegula, 7. Jasmine Paolini, 8. Mirra Andreeva, 9. Madison Keys, 10. Belinda Bencic.

LIVE TELECAST

THURSDAY

Badminton: India Open, Eurosport, 10 a.m.

Men's U-19 World Cup: India vs USA, Star Sports 2, SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 1 p.m.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: JioHotstar, 1.30 p.m.

HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.

WPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Serie A: DAZN, 11 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Friday)

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Friday)

FRIDAY

Badminton: India Open, Eurosport, 10 a.m.

Men's U-19 WC: Star Sports 2, SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 1 p.m.

Vijay Hazare Trophy: JioHotstar, 1.30 p.m.

HIL: Sony Sports Ten 1 & LIV, 7.30 p.m.

WPL: Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 & LIV, 1 a.m. (Saturday)

Serie A: DAZN, 1.15 a.m. (Saturday)

LaLiga: FanCode, 1.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Srikanth rallies to stays alive; Sindhu crashes out in opener

Changing the tempo: Srikanth took complete control of the second game, forcing Tharun to commit errors. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

INDIA OPEN SUPER 750

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

Two former World Championship medallists and local favourites, both trying to get back to the top of their game, had contrasting outings at the India Open Super 750 on Wednesday, with P.V. Sindhu crashing out in the opening round and K. Srikanth digging deep to advance into the second round.

Sindhu was unable to get going against Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen despite taking a close opening game 22-20 and lost in 68 minutes.

Sindhu kept dropping points, unable to counter her opponent's net play. This was Nguyen's third straight win against the higher-ranked Sindhu.

Srikanth initially struggled against compatriot Tharun Mannepalli, who made the main draw as a reserve player only on the eve of the tournament. Tharun started on an attacking note and upped the tempo halfway through the opening game, reeling off five straight points to take lead but never relinquished.

The second game saw Srikanth take complete control by mixing his pace and with deceptive shots and soft drops at the net, forcing Tharun to go wider.

17-year-old Tanvi Sharma lost to World No. 2 Zhi Yi Wang 20-22, 21-18, 13-21. Tanvi, who held a game point at 20-18 in the opening game and matched her opponent both on strokes and game play to take the second, ran out of steam towards the end but proved she had the game to match the best.

Elsewhere, H.S. Prannoy beat Cheuk Yiu Lee of Hong Kong 22-20, 21-18 and the doubles pair of Chirag Shetty and R. Satwiksairaj got a walkover from Zhi Yi Chen and Presley Smith of USA.

Top Indian results: Men: Kunlavut Vitidsarn (Tha) bt Koki Watanabe (Jpn) 21-19, 23-25, 21-10; K. Srikanth bt Tharun Mannepalli 15-21, 21-6, 21-19; H.S. Prannoy bt Cheuk Yiu Lee (Hkg) 22-20, 21-18.

Doubles: Chirag Shetty & Satwiksairaj Rankireddy w/o Zhi Yi Chen & Presley Smith (USA); Aaron Chia & Wooi Yik Soh (Mas) bt Aaron Tai & Khai Xing Kang (Mas) 21-12, 11-6 ret.

Women: Chen Yu Fei (Chn) bt Hsiang Ti Lin (Tpe) 21-17, 21-17; Malvika Bansod bt Yu Po Pai (Tpe) 21-18, 21-19; An Se Young (Kor) bt Nozomi Okuhara (Jpn) 21-17, 21-9; Thuy Linh Nguyen (Vie) bt P.V. Sindhu 20-22, 21-12, 21-15; Zhi Yi Wang (Chn) bt Tanvi Sharma 22-20, 18-21, 21-13;
Doubles: Nanako Hara & Riko Kiyose (Jpn) bt Rutuparna Panda & Swetaparna Panda 21-8, 21-18; Ha Na Baek & So Hee Lee (Kor) bt Gayatri Rawat & Mansa Rawat 21-5, 21-8; Ashwini Bhat & Shikha Gautam bt Margot Lambert & Camille Pognante (Fra) 21-18, 21-16; Pearly Tan & Thinaah Muralitharan (Mas) bt Kavipriya Selvam & Simran Singhi 21-18, 21-6. **Mixed doubles:** Pakkapol Teeraratsakul & Sapsiree Taerattanachai (Tha) bt Dhruv Kapila & Tanisha Crasto 21-15, 21-14.

Sindhu seeks consistency for better results

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

P.V. Sindhu was expected to lead the Indian women's pack at the $950,000 India Open Super 750 but the former champion and multiple Olympic and World Championships medallist barely managed to show traces of brilliance before fading away in the opening round itself against Vietnam's Thuy Linh Nguyen and admitted she needed to be more consistent for better results.

"At this level, you cannot expect easy wins or get easy points," a disappointed Sindhu said after the match.

Making amends: Sindhu admitted that she needs to break the flow after losing a point. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"She is a tricky player, she has good strokes and there were long rallies, often with more than 20 shots, and it was important to control them.

"I knew I had to keep the tempo of the game going and keep the shuttle on the court but it didn't work."

She admitted it was time to go back to the drawing board and prepare for the next tournament.

"Definitely I need to be a lot more consistent, specially when I am giving away easy, continuous points, I need to break the flow after losing a point," she added.

Former World No. 1 K. Srikanth, on the other hand, went from clueless to controlled against compatriot Tharun Mannepalli and admitted a few crucial points made all the difference.

"Halfway through the first game, I was thinking why I was not playing the way I wanted to, probably I didn't move as quickly or somehow couldn't start the way I wanted, but happy with the way I ended," Srikanth said.

He agreed that things could have gone either way towards the end.

"With the second game I got some confidence and then when he took that break leading 19-17, it gave me a little more time to calm down and try and understand what was happening and play accordingly.

"A couple of points here and there and things could have been very different. Just 1-2 net cords can change the whole outcome so I was just hoping for no net cords," he explained.

Antonsen blames pollution for pull-out

Uthra Ganesan
NEW DELHI

A day after Danish player Mia Blichfeldt complained of the conditions at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, compatriot and World. No. 3 Anders Antonsen too put up a social media post, blaming Delhi's pollution for pulling out of the India Open Super 750.

"Many are curious as to why I have pulled out of the India Open for the third consecutive year. Due to the extreme pollution in Delhi at the moment, I don't think it's a place to host a badminton tournament.

"As a result, BWF once again has fined me $5000," Antonsen posted along with a screenshot of Delhi's AQI levels at a hazardous 345.

Dortmund outclasses Bremen to tighten grip on second spot in Bundesliga

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

Serhou Guirassy scored his first league goal since October as Borussia Dortmund beat Werder Bremen 3-0 at home on Tuesday and restored its four-point buffer in second spot.

Nico Schlotterbeck and Marcel Sabitzer scored while Guirassy responded to being benched for the first time this season by tapping in late after Jobe Bellingham pressed Bremen into a mistake.

Stuttgart's 3-2 win over Eintracht Frankfurt earlier in the evening moved the German Cup holder within a point but 2024 Champions League finalist Dortmund responded with a controlled but unspectacular performance.

Schlotterbeck said Dortmund was "not perfect, but on the right path. We've still got a few steps to take, but we'll do that in the next few weeks."

Viciously hit: Sabitzer, left, thunders in Dortmund's second against Werder Bremen. AP

"Obviously it wasn't our best game – everyone has the right to react how they like," Sabitzer told Sky. "There's no point beating around the bush – obviously it's not what we're aiming for."

Nikolas Nartey nabbed a late winner and Deniz Undav continued his hot form as Stuttgart beat Eintracht Frankfurt at home to climb to two spots to third.

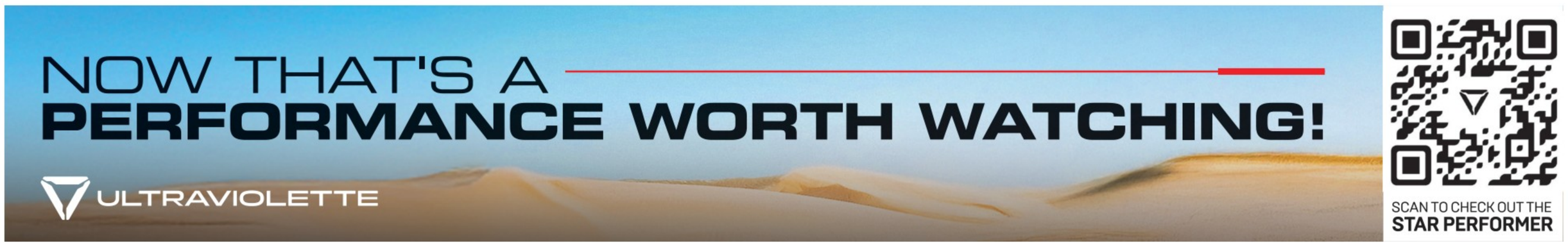
"It was wild," Undav told Sky Germany of the "spectacular game".

"I could have scored 10 goals myself. We could have easily won 3-1, 4-1."

Mainz continued its resurgence under new coach Urs Fischer, lifting itself off the bottom of the table with a 2-1 win over Heidenheim, which replaced it in last spot.

Tuesday's match between Hamburg and Bayer Leverkusen was postponed just two hours before kick-off due to wild winter weather.

The results: Borussia Dortmund 3 (Schlotterbeck 11, Sabitzer 76, Guirassy 83) bt Werder Bremen 0; Mainz 2 (Widmer 30, Amiri 49) bt Heidenheim 1 (Schimmer 60); Stuttgart 3 (Demirovic 27, Undav 35, Nartey 87) bt Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Kristensen 5, Amaimouni-Echghouyab 80).



INBRIEF

Cancelo rejoins Barcelona on loan from Al-Hilal

Defender Joao Cancelo rejoined Barcelona on Tuesday on loan from Saudi Arabian side Al-Hilal until the end of the season. "Barcelona and Al-Hilal have reached an agreement for the loan of the Portuguese full-back until the end of the season," said the Spanish club in a statement. The 31-year-old right-back spent the 2023-24 season on loan at Barcelona from Manchester City, making 42 appearances. Cancelo, a regular part of Roberto Martinez's Portugal squad, was not playing frequently for Al-Hilal, whom he signed for from Man City for $28 million in 2024.

Pakistan to host Australia in final tune up for T20 WC

Former champions Pakistan and Australia will face off in three Twenty20 Internationals to wrap up their preparations for next month's World Cup, the Pakistan Cricket Board said in Lahore on Wednesday. Gaddafi Stadium will host the three games on Jan. 29, 31 and Feb. 1 before India and Sri Lanka co-host the T20 World Cup from Feb. 7 to March 8.

Record-seeker Djokovic faces 'Sincaraz' roadblock

The Serb great, who won the last of his 24 Majors in 2023, is not impervious to the physical toll on his body, but only a foolhardy observer can write off one of the mentally toughest players ever

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Reuters
SYDNEY

Novak Djokovic returns to Melbourne Park looking to roll back the apparently inexorable tide of the 'Sincaraz' era and produce an Australian Open triumph that would establish him as the most successful Grand Slam champion of all time.

The Serbian clinched his 24th Major at the U.S. Open in 2023, but Jannik Sinner and Carlos Alcaraz have since dominated the Grand Slams with a brand of fast-paced tennis that has blown their rivals off.

Djokovic, who will be 39 in May, is not impervious to the physical toll two decades on the tour has taken on his body, but only the most foolhardy observer has ever written off one of the mentally toughest players to play the game.

To move out of a tie with Margaret Court in the legendary Australian's own back yard, though, he looks likely to need to beat one or both of the "New Two" at the business end of the tournament.

Last year, the last survivor of the "Big Three" (others being Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal) beat Alcaraz in the quarterfinals only to retire from his semifinal against Alex Zverev with a hamstring tear.

He reached the semifinals of the other Majors in 2025, losing to Sinner in Paris and at Wimbledon, as well as Alcaraz in New York.

Quest continues: Djokovic is defying age and practising hard not only for a 11th crown at Melbourne Park but an unprecedented 25th Grand Slam title. AFP

Too good

"I lost three out of four slams in semis against these guys, so they're just too good, playing on a really high level," he said after his loss at Flushing Meadows.

"Best-of-five makes it very, very difficult for me to play them. Particularly if it's like the end stages of a Grand Slam."

Djokovic's battered body might have other plans, though, and his chances of going deep will probably rely on him staying healthy into the second week at Melbourne Park.

21st appearance

It will be his 21st appearance in the main draw at the Australian Open, a run that started as a qualifier in 2005 when he was thumped by eventual champion Marat Safin.

Melbourne's large community of fans with Serbian heritage will ensure he has plenty of support at a tournament where he has otherwise been more admired than loved.

There is no doubting he will go down as one of the tournament's great champions, however, especially as his 10 triumphs came in an era when Nadal and Federer were also at their peak.

SNAPSHOTS

Velavan, Tandon make winning start in Detroit

DETROIT: Velavan Senthilkumar and Ramit Tandon began the new PSA season on a winning note at the DR 21Motor City Open.

Velavan eased past England's Samuel Osborne-Wylde 11-9, 11-5, 11-6, while Tandon beat Tom Walsh of England 11-8, 11-4, 8-11, 11-4 in the opening round.

In Cleveland, Veer Chotrani defeated local challenger Ignatius Lahorra 11-3, 11-3, 11-4 in the opening round of the Squash in the Land 2026, a silver-level tournament.

Rahm, Dechambeau & Smith committed to LIV Golf

LOS ANGELES: Major winners Bryson DeChambeau, Jon Rahm and Cameron Smith all committed to stay with LIV Golf in 2026 on Tuesday, turning down the chance to follow Brooks Koepka back to the US PGA Tour.

Samarth sizzles with unbeaten double hundred

BENGALURU: Samarth Suresh (238 n.o.) starred for Combined City XI against Mysore Zone in the KSCA under-14 inter-zonal tournament here.

The scores: Mysore Zone 167 in 65 overs (Nikhil Chethan 56) and 98/3 in 35 overs (G. Chethan 48 n.o.) drew with Combined City XI 379/3 in 90 overs (Suresh Araganji 77, Samarth Suresh 238 n.o.).

President's XI 410/6 in 90 overs (Prabhav Pydah 68, Padam Mehta 216, Ryan Tomar 44, Aaryan Nagesh 50) drew with Tumkur Zone 237 in 67.3 overs (Mohammed Yaseen 61, Rahim Khan 49, Aaryan Nagesh 4/23).

Vice President's XI 200 in 76.4 overs (Aadit Kaul 66, Gaurav Jeevan 57, Adarsh Hitthadi 4/34) and 43/1 in 10 overs drew with Shivamogga Zone 182 in 80.3 overs (Adarsh Hitthadi 48, Vyom Naidu 4/34).

Dharwad Zone 276/6 in 90 overs (Akshay Baligar 75, Ajay Lamani 59, Yesh Thakur 88) drew with Bangalore City XI 251 in 83.3 overs (Sachith Shetty 79, Zaki Ahmad 117 n.o.).

Mangalore Zone 126 in 69.2 overs and 41/1 in 11.5 overs drew with Bangalore Zone 243 in 89.4 overs (Mohammed Umair 40, Saurjyesh Das 105 n.o.).

Secretary's XI 343/6 in 90 overs (Pratham Satish 95, Sachit Galatagi 88, Tej Raju 95) and 35/2 in 16 overs drew with Raichur Zone 182 in 61.3 overs (Axaya Kumar 68).

Marijne joins Indian women's hockey team

The Dutchman's first big challenge will be the World Cup Qualifiers in Hyderabad from March 8 to 14, and he will be supported by Matias Vila as the team's analytical coach

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Dutchman Sjoerd Marijne on Wednesday formally joined the Indian women's hockey team as its chief coach, renewing his association with the squad after a fruitful four-year first stint from 2017 to 2021. Hockey India posted a photo of Marijne being welcomed by officials and administrators of the federation.

Marijne was reappointed to the post nearly two weeks ago, marking his return to the set-up after guiding the side to a historic fourth-place finish at the Tokyo Olympics.

Welcome back: Marijne being presented with a cap by Union sports secretary Hari Ranjan Rao in the presence of HI president Dilip Tirkey. HOCKEY INDIA

Marijne, whose first big challenge as chief coach will be the World Cup Qualifiers in Hyderabad from March 8 to 14, will be supported by Matias Vila as the team's analytical coach.

In his first stint as chief coach of the team, Marijne led the side to the World League semifinals in 2017 and silver medals at the 2018 Women's Asian Champions Trophy and Jakarta Asian Games.

Personal reasons

He quit citing personal reasons after India's loss to Great Britain in the bronze medal playoff match in Tokyo in 2021.

The National coaching camp is scheduled to begin on January 19 in SAI, Bengaluru.

HIL seeks Government support for better turnout in its last leg

Y. B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Notwithstanding the encouraging response from television and social media, the Hockey India League (HIL) top brass is concerned about the poor turnout and has requested the Government authorities to ensure a good attendance during the league's final leg in Bhubaneswar.

Despite free entry, Ranchi has seen a partially-filled stadium on most days, barring a packed house for the women's league final. Chennai hosted the opening leg of the men's engagements in front of near-empty stands.

"Even though there was a decent crowd in Chennai during the Junior World Cup, the stands were empty for HIL.

"The thin attendance in Ranchi may be due to cold evenings. We have requested the Odisha Government to gather people for HIL matches in Bhubaneswar, which is a major hockey centre," Hockey India (HI) president Dilip Tirkey told *The Hindu* on Wednesday.

Tirkey said HIL matches could not be staged in north India, which has a traditional fan base, because of the December-January window. "We cannot take the HIL to Punjab and Delhi due to fog during winters. There may be disruptions in matches and travel."

Nevertheless, HIL presented 'encouraging' social media and television figures.

As per a statement, the social media views for the HIL has crossed one billion in two weeks whereas last season's overall figure was one billion.

PSG tops UEFA prize money table

Associated Press
GENEVA

Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain topped the UEFA prize money table getting $168 million last season as the competition paid an extra $466 million among Europe's elite clubs in the expanded new format.

Inter Milan, the beaten finalist, was second on the money list, earning $159 million. Seven teams got at least $116.5 million in prize money compared to five that got a nine-figure payment the previous season.

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NOTIFICATION

The KSCSTE is seeking qualified candidates for the post of **Executive Director, KSCSTE-CWRDM**

For details log on to **www.kscste.kerala.gov.in**.

Last date for the receipt of application is **02.02.2026, 5.00 p.m**

EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

D3/37/2026/I&PRD

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560020.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ಹೆಉಆ(ಭೂಸ್ವಾ)/110/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 13.01.2026

ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ (ಪಿ.ಆರ್.ಆರ್.) ಯೋಜನೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ, ಸರ್ಕಾರವು ಹೊರಡಿಸಿರುವ ಆದೇಶ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಗಸೂಚಿಗಳ ಕುರಿತಂತೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿತ ಯೋಜನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಒಳಗೊಂಡಿರುವ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಕೋರುತ್ತಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.01.2026 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಸ್ಥಳ: ಬಿ.ಆರ್. ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ಭವನ, ವಸಂತನಗರ** ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ರವರ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ, ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಬ್ಯುಸಿನೆಸ್ ಕಾರಿಡಾರ್ ಮತ್ತು ಆಯುಕ್ತರು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ರವರ ಸಮಕ್ಷಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಭೆ ನಡೆಸಲಿರುವುದರಿಂದ, ಈ ಸಭೆಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಭೂಮಾಲೀಕರು ಹಾಜರಾಗುವಂತೆ ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

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2	Harish R & Nithya H	1302001B003	7,080		
3	Boya Hanumanthu	1316003D026	11,800		No. 315, Ward No. 17, Near Raghavendra Talkies, KC Road, Beside Agadi Marappa Compound, Bellary-583101. 9742221549
4	Thangavelu	1307001B001	11,682		No 297, D-28, 297/1, D-28/1, 297/2, D-28/2, 298, D-29, Hari Lakshmi Towers, Lakshmi Vilasa Road, Devaraja Mohalla Mysore – 570001. 9916016168
5	MP Venkatesh Babu	1307002J009	75,520		
6	Selvi Kumar	1308002I031	18,880	29/01/2026	No. 869/C, 17th G Main, 5th Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore – 560010. 9047684888
7	Raghunandan AR	1308009F004	28,320		

Date : 14.01.2026
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorized Officer
The Karur Vysya Bank Limited

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 30-CWM-UBLS-2025-26
Dated : 08-01-2026

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Implementation of Statutory mandates related to safety as per Factory act 1948 and ISO 450001:2008 at Carriage Repair Workshop Hubballi.	Rs. 23,12,800/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 15:30 Hrs on 30-01-2026

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Workshop Manager-I
PUB/817/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Hubballi**

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway-SWR | SWRRLY | @SWRAILWAYHQ | @sw_railways

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client SMT. J.S.RAMAMANI to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original GPA executed by Smt.J.S.Ramamani in favour of Sri J.S.D. Raghuram in respect of Vacant Site bearing Khaneshumari Khatha No.41/125, Situated at Bikasipura Gramathana, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West 60 feet and North to South 40 feet, total measuring 2400 Sq.ft., has been lost at the time of travelling.

All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the said GPA. If anyone has already carried out or being carried out kindly inform the undersigned in writing on the below mentioned address within 7 days from this present along with that Police Complaint is also given vide Lost Report No.2009574/2026, dated 14.01.2026.

Y. Sowmya Yadav, Advocate
Samvruddhi Legal, # 83, Ground Floor, 5th 'A' Cross, 21st Main, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase, Bangalore-78. **M : 9916343921**

यूनियन बैंक ऑफ इंडिया Union Bank of India
भारत सरकार का उपक्रम A Government of India Undertaking

CHAMRAJPET BRANCH
No 97, Mahaveer Arcade, Sirsi Road, Chamrajpet, Bangalore- 560018
Contact No: 8369269210; Mail ID: ubin0569216@unionbankofindia.bank

DEMAND NOTICE UNDER SEC.13(2)

The Borrower/s: a) Muniyappa K S/o Kariyappa, ADDRESS 1 : NO. 40 Kariyappa Badavane, Hosakerehalli, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560085. ADDRESS 2: Site NO.39, Ward No.160 Old Assessment No. 52, New No.138/2, PID 160-W0523-6, First Main Road, Kariyappa Layout, Hosakerehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore 560085.

b) Sathish M S/o Muniyappa K, ADDRESS 1 : NO. 40 Kariyappa Badavane, Hosakerehalli, BSK 3rd Stage, Bangalore 560085. ADDRESS 2: Site NO.39, Ward No.160 Old Assessment No. 52, New No.138/2, PID 160-W0523-6, First Main Road, Kariyappa Layout, Hosakerehalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore 560085.

Notice under section 13(2) read with Section 13(3) of Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002.

You the addressee No. 1 herein have availed the following credit facilities from our Chandra Layout Branch and failed to pay the dues/ instalment/ interest/ operate the accounts satisfactorily and hence, in terms of the RBI guidelines as to the income Recognition and prudential norms, your account/s has/have been classified as Non-performing Asset as on 29/12/2025. As on 01/01/2026, a sum of **Rs.8,06,672.51 (Rupees Eight Lakhs six thousand six hundred and seventy two and fifty one paise Only)** + further interest and charges at the contractual rate + incidental charges+ out of pocket expenses is outstanding in your account/s.

The particulars of amount due to the Bank from No. 1 of your in respect of the aforesaid account/s are as under:

Type of Facility	Outstanding amount as on date of NPA i.e. as on 29.12.2025	Un applied interest as on (01.01.2026)	Penal interest (Simple)	Cost / Charges incurred by Bank	Total dues (in Rs.)
Union Home Loan 692106650000020	7,72,038.82	28,384.94	-----	6,248.75	8,06,672.51
TOTAL					**8,06,672.51**

To secure the repayment of the monies due or the monies that may become due to the Bank, **Mr.Muniyappa K** had executed documents on **31/07/2014** and created security interest by way of mortgage of immovable property described herein below:

(DESCRIPTION OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY)

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Site NO.39, Ward no.160 old assessment no.52 New no.138/2, PID 160-W0523-6 ,First main road, Kariyappa layout, Hosakerehalli village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore south taluk, Bangalore now within BBMP limit, Bangalore, Measuring East to West 40 feet and North to South 25 feet Totally measuring 1000 sq ft and ad bounded on the; **East By:** Road; **West By:** Site no.52; **North By:** Site no.40; **South By:** Site no.38.

Therefore you are hereby called upon in terms of Section 13(2) of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002, to pay a sum of **Rs.8,06,672.51 (Rupees Eight Lakhs six thousand six hundred and seventy two and fifty one paise Only)** together with further interest and charges at the contractual rate + incidental charges+ out of pocket expenses as per the terms and conditions of loan documents executed by you and discharge your liabilities in full within 60 days from the date of receipt of this notice, failing which, we shall be constrained to enforce the aforesaid securities by exercising any or all of the rights given under the said Act.

As per section 13(13) of the Act, on receipt of this notice you are restrained prevented from disposing of or dealing with the above securities without the consent of the bank.

Your attention is invited to provisions of sub-section(8) of Section 13 of the SARFAESI in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Date: 15.01.2026
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owners **(1)Smt.Pushpalatha** W/o late Boraiah and her children, **(2)Smt.Shivamma** D/o late Kariyappa, **(3)Sri.Shivanna** S/o late Kariyappa, **(4)Smt.Lakshmi** D/o late Kariyappa and **(5)Sri.Siddaraju** S/o late Kariyappa, residing at: No.95, Bananduru Road, Ittamadu, Ramanagara-562109.

Apart from the said owners, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the agricultural land bearing (i)Sy.No.81/3, measuring 1 Acre 18 Guntas; (ii) Sy.No.82/3, measuring 1 Acre 6 Guntas and (iii)Sy.No.83/3, measuring 1 Acre 7 Guntas, situated at Ittamadu Village, Bidadi Hobli, Ramanagara District and bounded on:

East by : Land bearing Sy.No.175
West by : Government Halla
North by : Land bearing Sy.Nos.81/2, 82/2 & 83/2
South by : Land bearing Sy.Nos.81/4, 82/4 & 83/4.

Sd/- **S.F. GOUTAM CHAND**,
Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಜಗಳೂರು-577528 (ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ)
Ph: 08196 227118 Email: ka.jagalur.tp@gmail.com

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ:ಪ.ಪಂ:ಜಗ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/40/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ:13-01-2026

ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕಛೇರಿಯ 2025-26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ CMIDP ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಏಕ/ದ್ವಿ-ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-2 ಮತ್ತು ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ-3 ರ ನಮೂನೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಪ್ರಯುಕ್ತ ಆಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂಪ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ವಿವರ:- INDENT NO:-DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT 53728 :- (1) ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಬಿದರಕೆರೆ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ, 12ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಹಣ್ಣಿನ ವ್ಯಾಪರಿ ಮಹಬೂಬ್ ಅಲಿ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ವಿರೂಪಕ್ಷಪ್ಪ ಮನೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಡೆಕ್‌ಸ್ಲಾಬ್, ಮಾಲತಿ ಕಾಲೇಜು ಪಕ್ಕದಿಂದ ಎಸ್.ಕೆ.ಟಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-100.00**

INDENT NO:-DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53730:- (2) ಪಟ್ಟಣದ 15ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಸ್ ಮಾರ್ಟ್‌ನಿಂದ ಮಾಲತಿ ಕಾಲೇಜಿನ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಖಿಲಂದರ್ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಇರ್ಫಾನ್ ಮನೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಹೌಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ವೈಭವ ಹೋಟೆಲ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಇರುವ ಸಿ.ಡಿ ವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಡೆಕ್‌ಸ್ಲಾಬ್, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ ಕೆರೆಕೋಡಿ ಬಸವಣ್ಣ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನದ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ 15ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಡಾ॥ ಚೇತನ್‌ರವರ ಮನೆಯಿಂದ ಹೌಸಿಂಗ್ ಬೋರ್ಡ್ ಮುಖ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆಯವರೆಗೆ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ 12ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಕೆ.ಗುರುಸಿದ್ದಾಚಾರಿ ಮನೆ ಮುಂಭಾಗದ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ 12ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಮೇಷ್ಟ್ರು ಶ್ರೀನಿವಾಸರೆಡ್ಡಿ ಮನೆ ಮುಂಭಾಗದ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಚರಂಡಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣದ 17ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಪಂಪ್‌ಹೌಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆಯಿಂದ ಶಂಷುದ್ದಿನ್ ರವರ ಮನೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ರಸ್ತೆ ಮತ್ತು 15ನೇ ವಾರ್ಡಿನ ಅಲಿ ಮನೆ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಸಿ.ಸಿ ಚರಂಡಿ ಮತ್ತು ಡೆಕ್‌ಸ್ಲಾಬ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಮತ್ತು ಅಲಿ ಮಸೀದಿ ಹತ್ತಿರ ಕವರಿಂಗ್ ಸ್ಲಾಬ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-100.00**

INDENT NO:-DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53734:-(3) ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಹಳೇ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಗ್ರಂಥಾಲಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. **ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ):-25.00**

(1) ಖಾಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಇ-ಪೋರ್ಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ:30-01-2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯ ಒಳಗಾಗಿ. (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 02-02-2026. (3) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿ:04-02-2026. (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರ ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿಗೆ ಕಾಯ್ದಿರಿಸಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/-ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಜಗಳೂರು.

ಸಹಿ/-ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪಟ್ಟಣ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ, ಜಗಳೂರು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/647/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
PUBLIC WORKS, DEPT.

No. PWD/BGM/TND/TA/AE/2025-26/6544 Date:14.01.2026

-ITEM RATE TENDER NOTIFICATION(KPP PORTAL):-

The Executive Engineer, PWD Belagavi Division Belagavi invites item ratetenders from the eligible contractors registered in KPP Portal in Public Works Department under KW-1,2,3&4 Standard tender documents for a work under 2059 Dept Building Maintenance,2216 Dept & Judicial Quarters Maintenance, 3054 SH Road Maintenance, 3054 MDR Road Maintenance, 3054 SH Bridge Maintenance, 3054 MDR Bridge Maintenance, 4059 CMIDP Works, 4059 Dept Buildings 5054 SH Improvements, 5054 MDR Improvements, 5054 SH KRDCL Bridge, total 82 number of works with minimum and maximum tender amounts of Rs.5.07 Lakhs and Rs.701.48 Lakhs respectively and minimum and maximum EMD amount of Rs.10,000/- and Rs. 10,52,300/- Part-1:Tender receipt Date is on 31.01.2026 up to 4.30 PM , Technical Bid Opening Date is on 02.02.2026 after 4.45 PM, Part-2 :Tender receipt Date is on 23.01.2026 up to 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 27.01.2026 after 4.45 PM, Part-3 :Tender receipt Date is on 04.02.2026 up to 4.30 PM and Technical Bid Opening Date is on 05.02.2025 after 4.45 PM. For more information contact the office of the undersigned and www.Kppp.karnataka.gov.in after 14.01.2026.(Note:1) If no bids received, 3 days One Time auto extension activated.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Public Works Department,
Belagavi Dn Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-1635/KSMCA/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Joint Commissioner Zone-1, Mayohall, Mayohall Premises, Bengaluru-560 001.
No: BCCC/JC-1/TEND/01/2025-26 Date: 14-01-2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (Re Tender)
(Two Cover System)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Joint Commissioner (Zone-1), BCCC, Bengaluru on behalf of the Commissioner, BCCC invites tenders from eligible Contractors firm registered in Bengaluru central city corporation or equivalent registration with Labour Department or any State Government Organizations for the work as detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the work
1.	Providing Data Entry Operators to Offices under the The Joint Commissioner Zone 1, Mayohall, Residency Road, Bengaluru - 560 001. (to be deployed to the BCCC offices spread across) (No of Data Entry Operators Required-95) **Estimated Amount (Non-Refundable Inclusive of Taxes): ₹. 2,97,46,476/-, EMD: ₹. 6,00,000/-**

Note: * Tender notification no BCCC/JC-1/TEND/ 01/ 2025-26, & news paper notification Date: 11-12-2025 which is Reassigned dates because of technical reasons.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tender documents may be downloaded from the kppp portal of the Government of Karnataka from **16-01-2026** (2) Tenders must be submitted online through kpp portal on or before **04-02-2026** upto **4:00** pm (3) Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **23-01-2026** at **4:00** pm in the office of the Joint Commissioner-1, BCCC, Residency Road, Mayohall Premises Bengaluru. (4) Technical Bids will be opened on **06-02-2026** at **4:00** pm.

Sd/- Joint Commissioner Zone-1
Bengaluru Central City Corporation